



ISSUE 41

SPRING 1995

## *Crossing the Jundland Wastes: The Last Trek*

*A Journey Through Star Wars Fandom's Golden Age*

Maggie Nowakowska

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*Issue 15/16, September 1983*

When the final issue of *Jundland Wastes* appears at the end of summer 1983, fans have had three months to view *Return of the Jedi*, to access their reactions and then record their opinions of the movie.

Despite its status as Last Issue, normal JW business continues in #15/16. Three zines (*The Princess Tapes*, *A Harrison Ford Filmography* and *Contraband*) are reviewed, and the Lucas biography, *Skywalking*, is examined a second time. Sixty-nine zines are listed as available, with 11 coming soon and 36 planned; 35 fanzines are Out of Print.

Thirty-two pages long, JW contains 25 letters that continue discussion of JW's general SW subjects, and 19 letters (listed alphabetically to forestall any accusations of favoritism toward specific reactions) that specifically deal with ROTJ.

In the general letters, the Imperial apologists insist that the Empire is the legal government in the galaxy, adding that it is not down just yet. Rebel apologists agree that the Alliance faces a long battle with unreconstructed Imperials and with Imperial structures, which will probably remain in place—at least throughout Luke and Leia's lifetimes.

For the first time, fans begin to wonder if SW fandom will continue past the release of ROTJ. Once the story is resolved, they ask, will fans still be interested in SW? Without the continued release of new movies, will momentum die; will fans drift off to other newer and therefore more exciting fandoms?

An even more specific question is raised: once ROTJ turns every current fan story into a chronicle of an alternate SW universe, what will happen to fanzines?

Definitions of and discussions of fan universes already considered alternate continue. Alternate universes "that are

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## ***Editor's Desk***

# **VOTE! VOTE!! VOTE!!!**

Greetings, everyone! As you can see from the headline in this issue of SE, it's time to vote for your favorites in the STAR aWARdS. You will find a Star ballot attached to the back of this issue. Please, please take a few moments and fill out the ballot and mail it back to Judy by April 30. You don't have to have read everything on the ballot. Even if you've read just one zine, you can still vote!

I can't stress to you how important it is to all the writers, artists, poets, filkers, cartoonists, and editors who bring you zines that you give them support through this award. If you've ever attended the STAR aWARdS ceremony at MediaWest\*Con, you will know what I mean. The excitement, encouragement and enjoyment that the winners and runners-up receive from this award is a pleasure to behold. It lets these folks know that you appreciate the effort they're putting out for our favorite fandom and that we want them to go on.

Unlike the nominating process for the Fan Q's, which occasionally seems like a BNF popularity contest, the STAR aWARdS were designed so that everyone who'd had anything in a SW zine the previous year would be eligible. Don't vote for someone just because you recognize their name; vote for your favorite story, poem, art, etc.! If you think the same people win every year, have you exercised your power at the ballot box and voted for someone else? Vote! Vote!! Vote!!!

You will note on the ballot that I have removed *Southern Enclave* and *A Tremor in the Force #8* from the best letterzine and full-size zine competition this year, although the contributors themselves are well represented. SE and TF both won awards last year and I don't think it's fair for them to be in the running this year. There are many, many fine zines out there which all deserve a shot at the STAR aWARdS. Vote for your favorite!

By the way, thank you to those who nominated my story "Mercy Mission" (TF8) for a Fan Q this year. Although TF has been nominated several times, this is the first time I've ever had a story nominated and I'm tickled to death. Whether I win or not, it is a great honor!

I had told many of you that I didn't think I'd make it to MWC this year. Other things were planned for this summer and a trip to Lansing didn't appear to be one of them. However, plane fare dropped back into my price range, so I'll be joining all the fun after all! Of course, we'll have the annual SE Get Together on Saturday night so I'll be eager

to see you all there, too! And I'll look forward to any con reports and photos you send for SE. Deadline for the next SE is June 30, 1995.

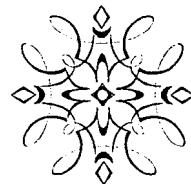
Laura Virgil and I went down to Revelcon in Houston this year and had a good time. It's still a small con and you get a chance to see some old chums. Danaline Bryant was in attendance this year (remember her, old-timers?) and it was a delight to renew an acquaintance. Danni gafiated for about 5 years but is now starting to think about getting back into fandom. Welcome back, Danni! (P.S., I won't make you write any reports for Star Fleet! -- which is an inside joke between her and me -- \*snicker\*)

Revelcon had a lot of zine dealers in attendance and a small, but first class art show. I bought a wonderful fantasy piece of whales and was sorely tempted by several other things.

Friday night featured the annual birthday bash, this time celebrating all January birthdays. Saturday night was filled with silly skits, lots of Klingons, and the Cat Boxe Theater, which performed their perennial favorite, "The Twelve Days of Menopause." (Yes, folks, this is an adults-only con because things can get pretty bawdy!) Sunday morning offered another time to socialize as well as stuff your face from the complimentary all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet. Then it was time for the art auction and finally to begin packing up and heading home.

I'm going to close this editorial by saying a hardy congratulations to Carolyn Golledge who will soon be a published professional author! She will be working for West End Games and hopefully will go on to bigger and better things as a pro novelist! Hey, Carolyn, maybe you can write a future SW novel and show the rest of the world what a *real* SW story is like! And, we also offer our condolences on the loss of your beloved Bonnie, and a hearty welcome to your new baby, Honey.

See you next time! Have fun at MediaWest and don't forget to vote in the STAR aWARdS!!!



## JAMES C. TOWNSEND

February 13, 1916 -- April 5, 1995

It is with great regret that I must announce the death of my father, James C. Townsend. He passed away on Wednesday, April 5, 1995, of complications following cancer surgery. He was 79. He had been battling the disease for about ten years and had endured the removal of part of his colon and the removal of part of his liver in separate surgeries, plus suffering with leukemia during that time. Malignant polyps had been discovered recently in the part of his colon that remained and it was decided that it was necessary to remove the large intestine altogether.

He had this surgery on March 14. He was recovering very well but on Sunday, March 19, he suddenly took a turn for the worse and began bleeding internally. The leukemia was preventing his blood from clotting properly. He was moved to ICU and then into emergency surgery. The doctor didn't find any one spot where he was bleeding, but discovered that all the places where he'd had his first surgery a few days before were leaking blood into his abdominal cavity. These were sealed and he was moved back to ICU.

Over the next three days, he steadily improved, although fluid began to build up alarmingly in his abdominal cavity. On Thursday, March 23, he began to have extreme difficulty breathing and they determined that the fluid had backed up around his heart and lungs and into his lungs. By 2:00, they made the decision to sedate him heavily and put him on a respirator as he was rapidly developing pneumonia. Over the next few days, his condition began to crater. His blood pressure was too low, his kidneys nearly stopped working, his heart developed arrhythmia, and his blood oxygen level was too low. The doctors worked hard to correct these problems.

On Saturday, March 25, they discovered that he was developing blood clots in his legs and inserted a tiny filtering device into his vena cava, the great vein that goes to the heart, that would intercept any clots that broke off and migrated.

Gradually, he improved by microscopic amounts. His blood pressure stabilized some and his lungs began to

improve. But then he developed a mysterious infection that invaded his entire body. Even though they pumped antibiotics into him, he had fever as high as 104° or more, and the doctors were stumped as to what was causing it. They even brought in the infectious diseases team to see if they could figure it out.

The doctors finally determined that his leukemia was the culprit in all his troubles. It had moved into its final states and was fighting them every step of the way. Finally, his stomach began to ulcerate and he began to bleed again. By this time, the doctors had decided that there was nothing

more they could do for him. He was on life support and that was the only thing keeping his heart beating or his lungs breathing. We made the hard decision to let him go. We knew that Daddy would not have wanted to be kept alive by machines.

He died peacefully and without pain and we are thankful for that. He was buried in his hometown cemetery surrounded by many, many friends and loved ones.

My dad was a gentle, quiet man. Except for the years spent in England during World War II with the 8th Air Force, he lived his entire life in the little country town where he was born. My mother was born there, too, and

both sides of our family are there. He was married to my mother for nearly 52 years (their anniversary would have been April 9th), raised a son and a daughter, and had three adoring grandchildren. He was an ordained deacon in the First Baptist Church he attended and was the truest example of a Christian I have ever known. By that I don't mean that he preached or wore his Christianity on his sleeve for all the world to see. But he followed the teachings of Christ to the best of his ability and was a humble, sincere man who knew without a doubt in his heart who his Lord was. He was honest, direct, unassuming and modest. He was a master plumber who worked until the cancer began to wear his strength down. He never thought twice about helping anyone in need and was a loyal and constant friend.

He was a remarkable man. He was my father and I'll miss him more than I can say.



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### CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Karen Ripley on the publication of her newest book, *The Alchemist of Time*, the final chapter in her trilogy, *The Slow World*. Check out this series! The first two books are *The Persistence of Memory* and *The Warden of Horses*. They are imaginative, unusual books, unlike anything I've ever read!

Carolyn Golledge who has just signed a contract with West End Games to write for their *Adventure Journal*. Way to go, Carolyn!

### CLUBS

Forces of the Empire  
c/o Pat Grant  
2343 N. Cedar St., Apt. A,  
Holt, MI 48842

The Moons of Yavin  
19 Park Avenue  
Bottesford, Scunthorpe  
South Humberside DN17 2PB  
England

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### ERRATA

From: Arwen Rosenbaum via AOL

Subj: Star Wars Book Info

From: Christian Waters at Bantam Books

Hey, all you aspiring SW authors!

One of the most common questions I get asked as SW book publicist is, How can I get a SW novel published? The short, brutal answer is: you can't. (Take heart. There's a longer, slightly less brutal answer coming.)

If you send an unsolicited SW manuscript to Bantam, we will return it to you unopened with a very polite letter explaining that because of fear of being accused of stealing someone else's ideas, we can not read your submission.

If, after all that, you still want to write a SW novel, here's what you do. Write a whole bunch of good SF/F novels, get them published, and then have your agent call us. We'll talk.

Unfortunately, we have the entire Bantam SW publishing program mapped out through 1997, so we'll have to talk after that.

And in answer to the question about who picks authors, Bantam or Lucasfilm, Bantan does with Lucas' approval. And the Lucas folks are quite nice to work with, too.

### ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY...

*Southern Enclave* #9, September, 1985. 60 pp., reduced, double columns. Opening article: "The Private Life of a Jedi, Part 2 -- The Lightsaber" by Jeanine Hennig. "An Interview With Harrison Ford", transcribed by Carolyn Golledge, from the Australian TV show *Terry Willesee Tonight* [promoting the release of *Witness*]. "Revenge of the Bridge Chairs" by Jeannie Webster, reporting on waiting for the SW trilogy at WorldCon, Los Angeles. Clippings section featured an article by Linda Billington, a columnist for the *Anchorage Daily News*, on her first visit to MediaWest\*Con. The article featured a reproduction of the cover of *Field Studies* #2 by Martynn.

LoCers: Tim Blaes, Barbara Brayton, Marcia Brin, Jenny Lyn Catanzarre, Bev Clark, Pat Easley, Carolyn Golledge, Rhonda Henderson, Susan Henderson, Jeanine Hennig, Barbara Izzo, Sandi Jones, Marlene Karkoska, Lynne Kennedy, P. J. LaVasseur, Michelle Malkin, Maggie Nowakowska, Carole Regine, Cindy Rodriguez, Mary Schmidt, Liz Sharpe, Sally Smith, Jean L. Stevenson, Sally Syrjala, Lisa Thomas, Lorie Thompson, Mary Urhausen, Lin Ward, and Jeannie Webster.

Art by: Cheree Cargill, Rhonda Henderson and Yvonne Zan.

Zines In Print: *Blue Pencil* (newsletter), *Chameleon* (Harrison Ford portraits by Dianne Smith), *Circle of Light* #1 and #2, *Combining Forces* #3, *Contraband* #3, *Fantazy*, *Far Realms* #6 and #7, *Field Studies* #2, *Flip of a Coin* #1-6, *Kessel Run* #1 and #4, *Legends of Light* #2, *Melange* #4, *On a Clear Day You Can See Dagobah*, *On the Mark*, *Outland Chronicles* #2, *Perceptions* (Harrison Ford zine), *Rogue's Gallery*, *Scoundrel*, *Shadow Dance* (multi-media), *Shooting Star* #1, *Sith Yearbook*, *Southern Knights* #1, *Southern Lights* #1, *Southern Lights Special* #1.5 (adult Man from U.N.C.L.E. issue), *Syndicated Images* (multi media), *The Old Republic Reader*, *The Princess Tapes*, *The Princess Tapes: The Prologue*, *The Wookiee Commode* #1 and #2, *Universal Translator*, *VHF-The Complete Book of Lyrics* (Martie Benedict's songs), and *Well of the Souls* #4. Coming Soon: *A Tremor in the Force* #3, *All That Jazz* (A-Team), *The Baron of Bespin*, *Choice Parts* #1, *Circle of Light* #3, *Dragon's Teeth* (novel by Carol Hines-Stroede), *Eclectic* (multi media), *Just a Coupla Jokers* (Simon and Simon), *Just*

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*Deserts* (Rat Patrol), *Legends of Light, Not Just Luke*, *On a Clear Day You Can See Dagobah* #2, *One From the Heart* (Mark Hamill zine), *Perfect Fusion*, Vol. I, *Perspective* (letterzine), *Power of Speech* (letterzine), *Revenge of the Sith* by Ellen Randolph [aka Melanie Rawn], *Shadow Dance II*, *Shooting Star* #2, *Signs of Wisdom* ("Desert Seed" novel by Carol Mularski), *Southern Knights* #2, *Southern Lights* #2, *The Complete Zeek*, Vol. I (collected stories of Anne Elizabeth Zeek), *The Enemies* (SW novel), *The Leading Edge* (SF/F), *The Millennium Falcon Casebook*, *The Monocle* (Wizards and Warriors), *The Princess Tapes* #2, *The Wolfshawe Tapestries* (Ladyhawke), *Wookiee Commode* #3, *Vertigo* (multimedia), and *Well of the Souls* #5. Misc Ads: Books, zines, buttons and photos for sale, Texas Rebel Alliance and Archaeological Society (Carolyn Cooper), ad for Conzineience (Dallas con), George Lucas Appreciation Society, Walk of Fame star for Harrison Ford, *Miami Vice* stationery, Harrison Ford Minicon in Atlanta, and VHF (Martie Benedict's songs).

## THANKS TO...

Thanks to Tina Bentrup, Louise Turner, Debbie Kittle, Maggie Nowakowska, Jennifer Moore, Z. P. Florian and all the others who sent clippings. I wish we could have used them all.



Carolyn Golledge and Honey

## • OBITUARIES •



Making stick-in-the-muds less sticky and aristocrats less dull: Shaw in the film *High Season* (1987) Photograph: Kobal Collection

# Sebastian Shaw

Sebastian Shaw was the kind of character actor who could rise to any dramatic occasion. Whether in films, plays, television or on the radio, his unobtrusive manner, sharp intelligence, tactful style and polished technique gave all his work a quiet distinction.

That he was rarely out of work, except from choice, for nearly 70 years testifies to the reliability of his talent. He conferred dignity on a wide range of respectable characters, from judges and churchmen to soldiers and other figures of authority. Able at the flick of an eyebrow or sigh of well-bred resignation to portray the patrician type at his most favourable in an often unfavourable dramatic climate, Shaw added to his weatherbeaten features, hesitant manner and aristocratic airs

and graces a touch of individual warmth which made stick-in-the-muds less sticky and stylish aristocrats less dull.

He was especially good at courtly or military pomp. His Polonius to Alan Howard's Hamlet for the Royal Shakespeare Company was unrivalled in his complacency and sense of circumstance. Who could forget; either, his long-suffering humiliation as Gloucester (to Eric Porter's Lear) as his eyes were put out?

He himself was anything but self-important if his stint at the Royal Court in the mid-1960s is anything to go by. When William Gaskill wanted to re-establish a repertoire, Shaw, by then in his sixties with half a century of experience on the West End stage, did his elegant bit to continue ushering in the so-called new wave – or rather the second wave – of British drama

instigated by *Look Back in Anger* a decade before.

Shaw brought all his tact and paternal encouragement to one of the most mixed bags in dramatic history. Ranging from Osborne's *A Patriot for Me* (for which the theatre had to turn itself into a club to escape censorship), Ann Jellicoe's *Shelley*, Granville Barker's *The Voysey Inheritance*, N.J. Simpson's *The Cresta Run* and *A Chaste Maid in Cheapside* to Wesker's *Their Very Own* and *Golden City*, it hardly offered the old actor much worth doing; but he made a fond patriarch to the otherwise young company.

Shaw played four parts in *Shelley* and a private soldier in Arden's *Sergeant Musgrave's Dance*; but the Royal Court cause had still to be fought, as had that of the trade union in Wesker's play and Shaw, if he wasn't for once playing a toff,

made a remarkably moving figure of the union organiser.

Repertoire which Shaw had known since his early days with Randle Ayrton – his favourite actor-manager – at Stratford-on-Avon in the 1920s was of no interest to modern Chelsea. So it was no surprise when he seized a chance to move to Peter Hall's RSC, still mixing new writers like David Mercer (*Belcher's Luck, After Haggerty*), Trevor Griffiths (*Occupations*) and Edward Albee (*All Over*) with the old, but giving Shaw a better chance to flex his muscles.

His beautifully phrased Duncan to Scofield's Macbeth, the already noted Polonius and Gloucester, Friar Lawrence in *Romeo and Juliet* (he had played Romeo at Swiss Cottage in 1932), Leonato in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Vincentio in *Measure for Measure*, Boyet in

*Love's Labour Lost*, Justice Overdo in *Bartholomew Fair* followed and – two cherished memories – Sir Eglamour in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and Sir Oblong Fitz Oblong in Robert Bolt's surely "classical" children's play, *The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew*. Then came two other friendly authors for such a well-graced old actor, Gorky with *Summerfolk* and Chekhov with *Three Sisters* (with the rubicund Shaw as the drunken doctor).

If his virtues were never widely celebrated (except sometimes in British films of the 1930s when he classed himself as "a piece of cinema beefcake") it was the

price a character actor always pays for being in work while the leading men wait for leading roles.

Shaw was a leading man occasionally before the war and made, they say, a lot of hearts throb. As Lewis Dodd the romantic artist in *The Constant Nymph*, a role which Coward and then Gielgud had just made famous, Shaw toured when touring was still big business. As Wyndham Brandon in the West End Sunday try-out of *Rope* he went on to Broadway in 1929 and then began making films, though not at the expense of the stage, with *Caste* (1930) and *Taxi to Paradise* (1933).

As Valerie Hobson's sailor husband in Michael Powell's *The Spy in Black* (1939) when she got involved with Conrad Veidt's monocled German naval captain at the end of the 1914–18 war, Shaw did his heroic bit; and in *Men Are Not Gods* (1936) he was an actor re-enacting Othello with the anxious Gertrude Lawrence as his wife. In Edgar Wallace's *The Squeaker* (1937) he played the eponymous nasty piece of work with all the smoothness at his command. He may also be remembered as the pilot in a wartime RAF training film in which Edward G. Robinson coached Richard Attenborough in the rudiments of flying.

War films included *The Glass Mountain* (1948) as the bearded novelist-friend of Michael Denison's musician, and Kevin Brownlow's *It Happened Here*

(1964), which showed what might have happened had Britain lost the war.

The stage, however, never lost its hold in youth or old age, whether in the open air at Ludlow as Everyman in the first English production of Hugo von

Hotmansthal's play, or as King Wulfhere in *St Chad of the Seven Wells* at Lichfield Cathedral, or directing and acting the lead as a detective in his own play *Take a Life* for Bernard Miles's Mermaid Theatre, or as the Judge at the same theatre in *Whose Life Is It Anyway?*

Even in his seventies Shaw toured American universities as a teacher and recitalist before returning to the National Theatre as that ancient red-faced, gnarled and crinkly 19th-century Irish pedant who could read Homer in Greek but not Shakespeare in Brian Friel's *Translations*.

#### Adam Benedict

When Tony Richardson and Woodfall Films generously offered to finance the final stages of Andrew Mollo's and my film *It Happened Here*, we were able to afford a professional for one of the most important roles, writes Kevin Brownlow. We consulted the actors' directory *Spotlight*, and it fell open at a picture of Sebastian Shaw.

"Now that's the sort of person we want," I said. "not that we could ever get him!"

"Why not?" asked Andrew Mollo.

"Why not!"

We telephoned Shaw's agent and arranged a meeting that same night at 11.30pm. Shaw was ideal. He said he would play the role only if he liked the script. He read it and agreed to do the part for a nominal fee. He made two conditions; if the film were ever shown commercially, he would be paid his usual fee, and he would have complete freedom to rewrite his dialogue.

We were only too happy to agree to both. He gave his dialogue an individual slant which enhanced his performance – and he helped us with the casting, introducing us to Fiona Leland, who was extraordinarily good as his wife.

The fact that Sebastian Shaw had been in films of the 1940s – like *The Spy in Black* – brought an authenticity to this recreation of the 1940s. It was one of those rare occasions when the actor proved far better in reality than in the scriptwriter's imagination.

*Sebastian Shaw, actor: born Holt, Norfolk 29 May 1905; died Brighton 23 December 1994.*



'A piece of cinema beefcake': Shaw with Gertrude Lawrence in *Men Are Not Gods* (1937)

Photograph: Kobal Collection

**Q** What is it with James Earl Jones? He's a great actor, and his voice could command armies, but he gets into those inane commercials and into bit parts on TV shows that appear degrading to a man of his talents. Is there something going on that doesn't meet the eye? —Karl L. Lockwood, Cleona, Pa.

**A** It's not the eye but the ear that may be playing tricks on you. Jones, 63, has such a memorable voice that he seems to be far more prevalent in TV commercials than is actually the case. In fact, he only has two current nonacting gigs: It's his sonorous voice that says "This is CNN" during breaks on the cable news network, and he's the pitchman for Atlantic Bell. Jones sometimes takes "bit parts" but usually is the star. He has won two Obies, one Grammy, three Emmies, one Oscar nomination and numerous other awards during a 40-year career in which he has played everything from Othello to the voice of Darth Vader.



James Earl Jones onstage with Dianne Wiest in *Othello*

Photo: J. J. Koenig

# DOES THIS MEAN 'WARS'?

**A**FTER YEARS OF pondering a *Star Wars* sequel, George Lucas is now committed to reviving the Skywalker clan saga. "I've got the stories done," says Lucas, "but I have to write the screenplay, so that's a deterrent."

According to Lucas, production on the sequel—actually, a trilogy of prequels—will start within two years. Focusing on a young Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker, a.k.a. Darth Vader, they will likely feature a new cast—a necessity considering that the inevitable has happened and *Star Wars* youngsters Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher, and Harrison Ford are as old as Yoda.

What has drawn Lucas back to the Force? Technology, for one thing. Recent advances in digital ef-

fects—pioneered by Lucas' own Industrial Light & Magic—could make any new *Star Wars* film considerably less expensive to produce.

And speaking of money, a return of the Jedi could mean a potential fortune for Lucas, who controls the rights to subsequent movies and is free to auction them off to the highest bidding studio.

Best of all, Lucas reportedly may direct, something he hasn't done since the 1977 original.

That alone should send the studios scurrying. As one studio chief says, "Somebody else doing *Star Wars* means nothing; George Lucas doing it means everything." —Albert Kim, with Gregg Kilday and Frank Spotnitz



8-12-94

## Peter Cushing, horror film star, vampire chaser, dies of cancer

Associated Press

LONDON — Peter Cushing, a veteran of more than 70 movies who was best known as a horror-film stalwart, died of cancer Thursday at age 81.

Mr. Cushing was a key player in the Hammer films of the '60s and early '70s. These stylish, if low-budget, productions pressed the boundaries of violence and sexuality for the horror genre of the time.

As the tireless vampire fighter Professor Van Helsing, Mr. Cushing starred in the 1958 remake of *Dracula*, *Brides of Dracula* (1960), *Dracula AD* (1972) and *The Satanic Rites of Dracula* (1973). He took up the mantle of Baron Frankenstein in *Curse of Frankenstein* (1957), *The Revenge of Frankenstein* (1958), *The Evil of Frankenstein* (1964), *Frankenstein Created Woman* (1957), *Frank-*



Peter Cushing

*enstein Must Be Destroyed* (1969) and *Frankenstein and the Monster from Hell* (1974).

He's best remembered by contemporary audiences as Darth Vader's evil boss Grand Moff Tarkin in *Star Wars*.

Born in Kenley, England, Mr. Cushing made his stage debut in 1935, then set off for Hollywood. He found plenty of work in well-known films, including *The Man in the Iron Mask* and *A Chump at Oxford* with Laurel and Hardy.

After World War II, Mr. Cushing was a star in Laurence Olivier's Old Vic company and was admired as Oric in Mr. Olivier's film *Hamlet* in 1948.

He branched into television and played a range of classic roles in *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Winslow Boy*, *Beau Brummell* and the starring role of Winston Smith in 1984.

With his gaunt, birdlike features, he was an ideal Sherlock Holmes, a role he played in film and television.

THE REBELS THINK THE FORCE  
IS WITH THEM.  
EXPLODE THE MYTH.

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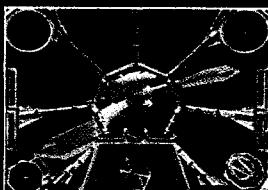
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# LUCASVISION

## *George Lucas, creator of 'Star Wars,' talks about the convergence of entertainment and technology*

BY THOMAS R. KING



ICASIO, Calif.—If you had to pick just one person who best understands the worlds of entertainment and technology—and who easily traverses both—it would be George Lucas. The creator of the "Star Wars" and "Indiana Jones" film trilogies has traded in his Hollywood moniker of producer-director to become the ultimate "hyphenate": thinker-doer.

As owner of Lucasfilm Ltd. and several related high-technology companies, he has firmly planted his feet in both worlds, and has staked his personal future and professional reputation on a melding of the two. This isn't newfound religion. Years ago, he left behind a Hollywood whose pettiness and lack of vision he abhorred, and moved his company to Northern California, closer to Silicon Valley.

Much the way he created a new standard for special effects with "Star Wars" in 1977, the 49-year-old filmmaker is leading the way in helping to define just how emerging technologies will affect moviemaking and entertainment in general.

Hollywood could be a winner, he says, if studios cough up vital research and development funds. Technology could help to dramatically reduce the spiraling cost of making films, while offering the promise of making them more exciting.

With his recent TV series "The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles," Mr. Lucas saved the expense of creating elaborate period sets by using computers to "re-create" the backgrounds. He also used them to make a handful of people look like a crowd—winning no friends among extras, perhaps, but gaining the attention of studio bean counters.

An interactive fiber-optic network connects the North Carolina production site of his latest movie, "Radioland Murders," with the post-production facilities at his Skywalker Ranch here. Mr. Lucas "visits" the set every morning without leaving the

ranch, chatting with the crew via a two-way video hookup that allows interaction in real time, using compressed digital video.

The entertainment that comes from Lucasfilm—movies, television shows, computer games and more—will certainly play a role in the much-vaunted multimedia future. Mr. Lucas recently sat down with The Wall Street Journal, peered in his crystal ball and had this to say:

**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL:** Where do you think we are headed in the next five, 10, 15 years?

**MR. LUCAS:** There's a lot of hype out there, but there's something real happening. It's the upgrading of telecommunications in this country, and that will have a tremendous and powerful impact on the way we live our lives. A lot of the rumbling right now is about home shopping and viewer-on-demand video, and those kinds of things really are going to happen.

If cable operators really want to grow the business, they'll have to compete with the existing home-video market. But a lot of the key issues have to do with pricing. If cable operators get greedy and charge, say, \$20 an hour for programming—especially old programming—I don't think much is going to happen. But if they get it down to the level of \$1 an hour, there will be an instantaneous revolution that will wipe out the home-video business in a year.

**WSJ:** Do you think people really want all these services?

**MR. LUCAS:** Definitely. They don't want it at \$20 an hour, they don't want it at \$10 an

hour. But they'll take it at \$1 an hour. They'll pay that for movies-on-demand, TV shows-on-demand. I think the only things you'll get on the TV networks will be infocommercials, talk shows and nondramatic programming. I don't think they'll be able to afford to put dramatic programs on the air—it's just too expensive.

Programming that involves creative talent will end up on "pay-on-demand." That's different from "pay-per-view," which will still be used for big events like championship fights. For those, they can charge \$20 or \$40 an hour. But to sell

"Murphy Brown," "Roseanne" or any movies, the price will have to be maintained at a very low rate before people will buy into it. And they will buy into it. They would just as soon not go out to the video store if they can get it at home.

**WSJ:** What about a generational factor? Will older Americans resist the new technology and leave the 500-channel TV surfing to computer-literate kids?

**MR. LUCAS:** I don't see it happening that way. I see it like the cellular phone and the fax machine. People say, "I don't get it, I don't need it." But then they'll see it being used and say, "I have to have one of these things." And it will be hard not to. People will discover that finding information on a computer will be infinitely easier than programming a VCR is today. Plus, audio-command technology is here. That is going to be a major factor. You can tell your TV, "I want to watch Murphy Brown."

Older Americans, I think, will really go for the home-shopping services as they develop. The reality is that many of them would like to order up things at home and not have to go out.

**WSJ:** Besides TV shows, movies and home shopping, what else might people order up on these new TV systems?

**MR. LUCAS:** Well, I have a game company, and I think view-on-demand games will take off pretty quickly. It's a little bit problematical about how it's going to work, but it seems obvious that home delivery of games is a natural, because it's a digital medium that you're dealing with. Interactive games that involve more than one player—I call them "party-line games"—will be popular. You're playing with two or three other people at the same time at various places over the phone. Visual telecommunications and video conferencing will also add to this. If you're playing a game with two or three other people, you can see them all as you play. It's just like being next to them.

**WSJ:** What impact will digital technology have on Hollywood as it relates to movie making?

**MR. LUCAS:** The cost of making movies is going to come down. More filmmakers are going to be able to tell bigger stories. Take "The Age of Innocence." It's hard for most filmmakers to get a movie like that off the ground today. The market isn't big enough, and the cost of doing a period movie like that is too expensive.

But on the "Young Indy" TV series—which was also a period show with horses, carriages, completely different landscapes, costumes—we had exactly the same kinds of production values as "Age of Innocence," but we did it for 10% of the cost, thanks to digital technology. We used the computer to make crowd scenes, when we only had a handful of actors, and to replicate backgrounds that weren't really there.

That just means that more people will be allowed to make big films like ["The Age of Innocence"] than just Marty [Scorsese], a man who's at the top of the field with a huge amount of clout. More

people will be able to do something that's a little bit out of the action or other highly commercial genres. Studios will hopefully be able to make more movies, and they will then be able to take more chances and make more interesting films.

**WSJ:** How important is that?

**MR. LUCAS:** Listen, a lot of the films that I've made have been offbeat, really high-risk movies. "Star Wars" was a completely high-risk, nobody-out-there-understands-it kind of movie. Once it came out, it was a big hit because it was so fresh and different. Because it was so high-risk.

**WSJ:** What kind of savings are we talking about?

**MR. LUCAS:** We did a shot in the TV series for \$1,500 that would have cost a studio \$30,000 if they were doing the same shot for a feature film. "Radioland Murders," the movie we're working on right now, is an experiment for us in that we're applying the cost-saving technology we learned on the TV series to the big screen. I don't think we can get that same shot done for \$1,500, but we may be able to get it to \$10,000 or \$12,000. But even going to \$12,000 from \$30,000 is a major leap. And this is just the first step. We're inventing new technology that I feel very confident will allow us to cut that cost in half again. Within the next couple of years, we'll be able to take what was a \$30,000 shot and do it on the big screen in full resolution for \$6,000 or \$7,000.

**WSJ:** Tell me about "Radioland Murders."

**MR. LUCAS:** The budget is under \$10 million. The average cost of making a movie today is \$30 million. It's the kind of movie I

like to make—it's frantic and crazy and fun—but it's difficult to get a movie like this made because it doesn't fit into any of the categories that studios like. This is a really wacky, offbeat comedy, set in 1939—and it doesn't have any movie stars. This isn't a romantic comedy with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan, so the studio looks at it as this extreme wild card. If it were to cost \$30 million, no one would make it. Not even with me attached as producer. But there's this chance it could break out. Universal Pictures will distribute it, maybe in the fall.

**WSJ:** Among the studios in Hollywood, how do you rate the various management and corporate cultures when it comes to melding entertainment and technology?

**MR. LUCAS:** They're all struggling to figure out what they're doing, what they should be doing. They come up and we talk about things, but the funny thing is, not many of them listen. They're spending their money in the craziest ways. They won't put it where it has to go, in terms of investing in the technology. They figure somebody else will do it. We're not talking about huge sums of money—\$10, \$20, \$30 million—but it would save them hundreds of millions of dollars if they would just step up to the plate and do it now. You're not going to see giant, overwhelming profits coming from multimedia for a number of years, but the investment has to be made now.

**WSJ:** Besides the folks here at Lucasfilm, who are the visionaries in Hollywood?

**MR. LUCAS:** There are a lot of people working down there, but there isn't anybody that comes to mind that I would say, "Here's somebody who's really got the picture." The studios are trying to figure out what to do and they're making a lot of interesting decisions.

It's funny. I've been in the game business for 15 years, and now all of a sudden all the studios are jumping in. They don't understand the marketplace or who the players are. Or that the players are bigger than they are.

**WSJ:** What will going to the movies be like in the next century?

**MR. LUCAS:** Older theaters will be gone. I think today's multiplexes are going to expand and become larger entertainment centers that also have Imax theaters and maybe 3-D theaters. There are going to be bigger, higher-quality images and better sound. There will be a much higher quality of presentation. Things like our THX sound system in theaters will add to that.

**WSJ:** Some people predict a rise in interactive theaters, where audience members push buttons to determine various changes in a plot to affect the outcome of the movie. What do you think of that concept?

**MR. LUCAS:** I think that's "smell-o-vision." People don't want to do that. People do want to have an interactive experience, but I think they want to play interactive games. We've got a CD-ROM game called Rebel Assault, where players actually get into the "movie." At any given moment, players hit a button or turn left and the ac-

tion changes. The action shifts according to the way each player responds to certain commands. That is an interactive movie. I call it a game, but somebody else will call it an interactive movie.

If you want to see the future, Rebel Assault is the future. These games are going to become more articulate, more sophisticated and have higher-quality resolution. There will be better images, more conversations with the characters, and an appearance of an unlimited ability to move around. But it will be basically the same thing.

**WSJ:** Isn't the game market kind of a limited business?

**MR. LUCAS:** Hardly. Rebel Assault just came out at Christmas, and we've already sold about 400,000 units. Before this, the industry saw any CD game that sold over 50,000 as very strong. We can't get it to the stores fast enough, and it's selling through better in Europe than it is here. More importantly, we've obviously hit a brand new population of game players with it. For hard-core gamers, Rebel Assault isn't their cup of tea. But there's a whole market of

people who want to be able to sit down and have an interactive experience. This is sort of the "Jurassic Park" of CD games.

**WSJ:** Is there any danger that new technology poses for Hollywood?

**MR. LUCAS:** Sure. I think you can make "cookie-cutter" movies with computers, and I'm certain some people will start doing that. Talent is expensive and, at the same time, thinking is hard. But computers or no computers, movies will always be about storytelling. I think you're going to find that the things that are worthwhile will involve the slightly psychotic state of a writer that produces the most interesting things to watch. If you take the "twist" out of movies, you've lost the interest of your audience.

**WSJ:** The computer-generated dinosaurs that your company's Industrial Light & Magic division created for "Jurassic Park" left audiences dumbstruck. What was your reaction when you first saw them?

**MR. LUCAS:** We did a test for Steven [Spielberg], and when we put them up on the screen I had tears in my eyes. It was like one of those moments in history, like the invention of the light bulb or the first telephone call. A major gap had been crossed, and things were never going to be the same. You just cannot see them as anything but real. It's just impossible. Maybe 20 years from now, 50 years from now, they will look clumsy. But I'm not sure even that will happen.

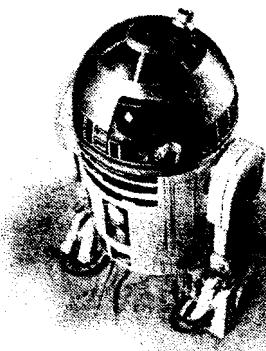
I think we may have reached a level here where we have actually created reality, which of course is what we've been trying to do all along.

**WSJ:** Fans of "Star Wars" are eager awaiting the next trilogy of movies. Some have been hoping the next movie might be ready for release in 1997, the 20-year anniversary of the first movie.

**MR. LUCAS:** That's possible. I plan to start work on the screenplays soon, and hope to be in production on the trilogy within the next two years. I think they'll be done in the next four to five years. But it really depends on how fast we can make these technological changes.

There are a lot of interesting aspects to the next stories, but if I were to do them the way I'd done the other "Star Wars" films, they would be astronomically expensive, over \$100 million. [The first "Star Wars" film cost less than \$10 million.] No body can afford to make a film for \$100 million today. So we have to sort of reinvent the wheel. Most of what I'm working for is to be able to do the more fantasy-oriented, high-imagination movies, and be able to accomplish them with a reasonable amount of money. It's all sort of dependent on how fast the new technology falls into place, but it's coming along pretty fast now. ■■■

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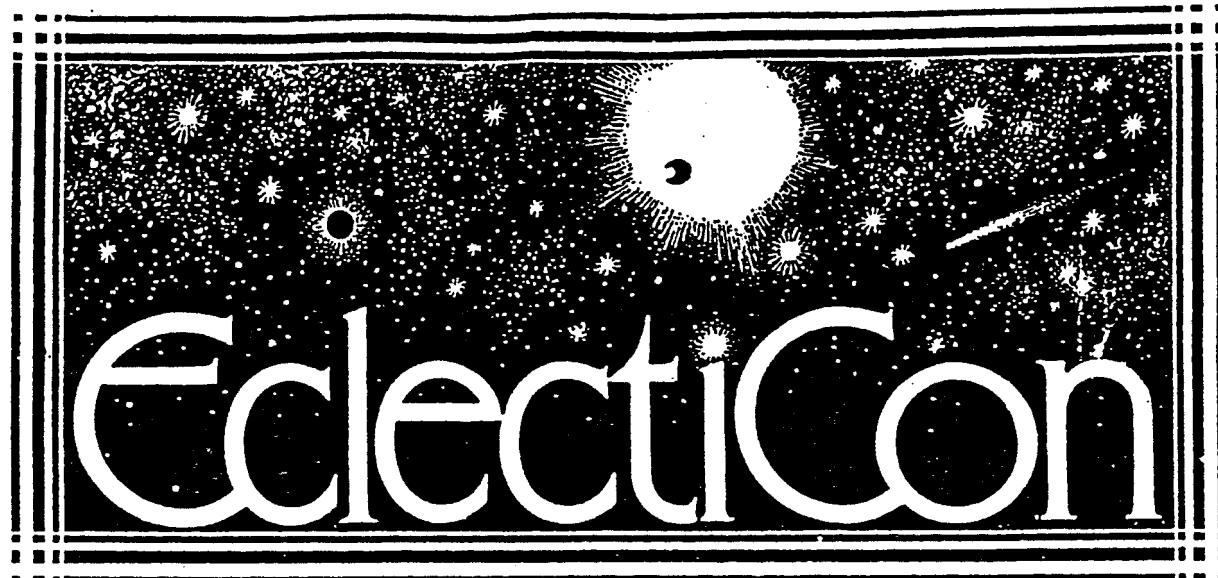
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Edited by Pat Nussman and Liz Sharpe

This long out-of-print heterosexual-adult *Blake's 7* zine, first published in 1988, has been completely reformatted and reprinted. *Straight Blake's #1* contains stories such as...

- ❖ "Renaissance" by Pat Nussman. With four hours before *Liberator* returns to Cephlon, Meegat plans to use the time wisely, persuading "Lord Avon" to participate in an important—and pleasurable—ritual.
- ❖ "Sarabande" by Susan Matthews. A sequel to her gen novella, "Love and Necessary Discipline." Avon is called upon to do his duty to the community by helping a woman scarred by sexual abuse. Will her resemblance to Cally help or hurt her cause?
- ❖ "Tempo Rubato" by Liz Sharpe. Soolin has just teleported Zeeona back to Tarrant's waiting arms and the atmosphere on *Scorpio* is tense. Avon could chew Soolin out all the way to Betafarl or they could pursue more interesting activities...
- ❖ "Bolero" by Susan Matthews. What some people will do for their crewmates! When Dayna and Tarrant stumble on the road to consummation, Blake and Jenna and Cally and Avon find they must, er, demonstrate how the path of true love is best to be followed.
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*Straight Blake's #1* also includes poetry by Jillian Courtenay, Pat Nussman, Liz Sharpe, and Susan Matthews, and features gorgeous cover art by Karen River.

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# A TREMOR IN THE FORCE 8

- "All the Marbles", a brand new story by Martie Benedict, art by Wanda Lybarger. It sounded too good to be true. The strange little alien had a fool-proof plan for getting rich and she was willing to cut Han and Chewie in on the money ... but their part in the scheme got a little complicated...
- "On The Third Day" by Carol Hines-Stroede, art by Nancy Stasulis. An Alan Patronis story. Vader is dead, the Alliance is in power, and the Dark Lord's top assassin is in custody. But when he attempts suicide, it is up to his long time friend, Dr. Jen Berani, to save his life. Little does she dream that her past associations will now come home to haunt her.
- "Balance of Power" by Veronica Wilson, art by Z. P. Florian. Politics consist of power plays, and it is a complicated web that Vader, Tarkin and Palpatine weave as they prepare to launch the deadliest weapon the galaxy has ever known.
- "Mercy Mission" by Cheree Cargill, art by Wanda Lybarger. All Han had to do was fly to an Imperial controlled planet, pick up some medical supplies and bring them back to the Alliance base. Leia positively guaranteed him that absolutely nothing would go wrong. Yeah, right...
- "The Trial" by Patricia Kelley, art by Catherine Churko. Luke Skywalker had saved his father's life when he pulled him from the impending explosion of the second Death Star. He didn't think about what might be ahead for Anakin once he recovered from his wounds.
- "Heart's Blood" by Marti Schuller, art by Melanie Guttierrez. A major Alliance espionage source has mysteriously fallen silent. Han and Luke are sent undercover to find the source and rescue the agent if possible. What they find in their search for "Heart" is enough to turn any agent's blood cold.
- "Every Droid's Dream" by Carolyn Golledge. The sequel to "High Seas". Jake Kellahan, the mad Corellian, is back and he and Han are in trouble again. This time they have crash-landed on a planet controlled by droids. Can they talk their way out of this one or is it up to Threepio to save their hides?
- "Man to Man" by Carol Hines-Stroede. There were a few things Luke had never learned about the Force. And sometimes a boy's just gotta talk to his father.
- "Seek and Ye Shall Find" and "Patterns of Battle" by Catriona Campbell, art by Gerald Crotty. Two new stories in the *Penumbras* series. While on Tatooine to rescue Han from Jabba the Hutt, Leia takes time to visit the Lars farmstead, searching for some remembrance of Luke. Meanwhile, the Son of Vader prepares for battle.
- "Shadow Talk" by Z. P. Florian. The Emperor has Luke Skywalker in his possession. Now the battle of wills begins.
- "The Right Thing" by Nora Mayers. Han and Leia's children were strong in the Force. It was now time that they be trained by Luke, but not surprisingly Han had equally strong objections.
- "Her Ladyship" by Marti Schuller, art by Z. P. Florian. The venerable Lady of Alderaan had outlived all her companions and only she remembered the truth about the Rebellion Against the Empire. Now she must pass her knowledge along to a new generation.

Much much more! This issue also features stories by Cat Anson, Mary Jo Fox, Yvette Ghilan, Sandi Jones, Lisa Papp, Susan Deborah Smith, Louise Turner, and Susan Zahn. Poetry by Kathryn Agel, Cheryl DeLuca, Yvette Ghilan, Jennifer Moore, Lynda Siegel, Jacqueline Taero, Veronica Wilson, and many more. Color cover by Nancy Stasulis. Additional art by Nicola Pearce, Robert Beard, and more of your favorites.

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# FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW

J. LOW '96

## THANK YOU

Marti Schuller  
415 S.E. Annette  
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Dec. 27, 1994

What a wonderful early Xmas present SE #40 was—and did I ever need it! On the day of its arrival, I was up to my icing-smeared chin in holiday baking but finding no joy in the season due to my father's absence. SE's distraction, the reminder of so many SW friends and of the happiness SW has brought into my life lifted my sagging spirits considerably.

By the way, thanks to all who supported me with cards and well wishes. It meant more than I can say.

I also cannot adequately express the relief I experienced when I read that neither SE nor *Tremor* would be immediately vanishing from my future. These two products of your considerable hard work, Cheree, have become nearly as essential to me as air and water. Selfishly, I thank you and hunger for years and years of more to come.

Congrats to Randy on his new position as well. I hope this signals only the beginning of a new and prosperous future for your family.

Now to the issue itself.

Maggie's continuing report on *Jundland Wastes* remains interesting to one who was not in fandom then. Too bad those dated articles are still able to conjure tender nerves, but perhaps it will serve to warn we relative newcomers away from past mistakes. I look forward to more.

While I thoroughly enjoyed Judy Yuenger's Eclecticon

report (as well as the letters that referred to that event), it only made me more hungry for those elusive winning lottery numbers. It sounded like such fun! Alas, MWC is all my shallow purse can currently manage—and that can prove a test all by itself. Perhaps one day I can look forward to attending however. We can but dream.

Before I proceed to the actual letters, allow me one last comment. I absolutely *loved* all the SW-based cartoons in this issue! I'd seen none of them before and my perverse nature adores the humorous side of the Force. Let roll the Energizer-Vader commercial, please. (Not to mention the Simpsons/SW promo.)

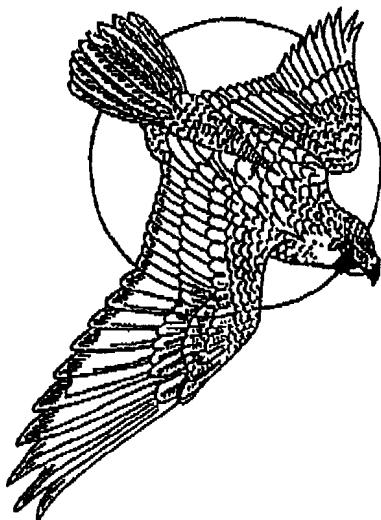
Debbie Kittle (and others): Would fans be so quick to condemn the pro SW novels if they appeared as fan fic? Okay, tough question, but in all fairness I believe most would. Perhaps the criticisms would be more diplomatically phrased, but I believe fan readers who take the time to write LoCs generally tend to point out what they feel are problems or holes in a story. They also tend to state it when they hold opposite views from the story's content. While I happen to be like Judy Yuenger, a charter member of the "Thumper Philosophy of Life Upbringing", even I have been known to express malcontent in the odd LoC or two. *Some* feelings are just too strong to stifle, no matter the target.

A. G. Steyn: How clearly your time line made my point! I love it and it reinforces my view that forty years is just too, too long. Hello, Father George, are you listening?

Belea Keeney: Welcome to SE. You're gonna like it here. By the way, I love your first name. Dr. Lillith Crane, of course. How deliciously, wickedly funny. Terrific idea.

Tim Blaes: Your recollection of your first MWC echoed my own—and I didn't have the ego-comfort of being the minority gender present. Reading zines and corresponding

1 of 2 Sheets



*Lair  
of the  
Blue  
Falcon*

by  
*J.A. Berger*



Luke Skywalker set out to rescue a friend. How was he to know that in trying to save Han's life he was probably taking him to his death.

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with fellow SW fans certainly didn't prepare me for the con or the "society" I met there either. That's one reason I try to make others feel welcome now that I'm more comfortable. I also try to encourage fellow con-attendees to do likewise. I know the hours are stretched to a max already, but we were all "first-timers" once ourselves. We should try to make the con as enjoyable for others as we want it to be for ourselves. Isn't that part of what we want SW fandom to represent?

Jennifer Moore: Did I dislike Kevin Anderson's portrayal of Luke? Do you have to ask? No, I did not, though it wasn't horrible so much as mediocre, IMO. Why I dislike the book. Boy, do you want the whole list? No, I've tried to block that nightmare from my mind, so I won't go into all of my reasons anew. However, two strong points pertain to two-year-olds being "safe(r)" from Dark Side influence (Anderson must not have children!) and the naming of one of the children Anakin. No way do I ever, ever, ever see Han or Leia even contemplating such a thing. P-L-E-A-S-E!!

Mary Jo Fox: As I said to Debbie, I believe most LoC writers tend to be polite, mentioning chiefly the stories they liked and avoiding those they didn't. If that's considered being more tolerant of fan writers, so be it. At least the criticisms of the pro novels are honest and not evading the issue. Personally, I doubt I'll spend another dime on the novels, though I may break down and buy the one due out by Margaret Weis since I did love the *Dragonlance* series she co-wrote with Tracy Hickman. Hmm, Raistlin shuns spells and turns Dark Side Jedi. Could be interesting.

To all I failed to respond directly to, hello. Perhaps next time I'll *feel* more wordy.

Before I go, however, I have one semi-question comment. While watching the A & E network's *Biography* series on Soupy Sales, I was suddenly struck by what may have long been evident to others. That is that as a small child I loved the Soupy Sales Show and I remember White Fang only as a pair of hairy paws. However, Soupy always looked up as though White Fang was huge. While touted as "the meanest dog in the world", the mental image was compelling. Now, my long-winded point is — could this early program in any way have influenced Lucas' creation of Chewbacca? Does anyone know or find fault with my question?

One last word of thanks to all who so thoughtfully conveyed their friendship and concern for me on my father's death. The flowers were lovely, Cheree. Your cards and letters helped more than you can know. Though I miss him terribly, Dad was suffering and now he's at peace. I keep remembering Yoda's line "not this crude matter" and it comforts. Besides, Dad will be with me as long as I live — in my love of reading, writing, good music and the joy of laughter that are his legacy to me.

So, thanks and let's hope '95 is a better year for us all.  
Is it May yet?

## GROWING PAINS

Debbie Kittle  
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January 24, 1995

Another great issue. I especially enjoyed Maggie's second chapter of SW Fandom's growing pains. And pains they were. She mentioned we still "live with a legacy of hesitation." Perhaps that's more of a blessing than a curse. When reading these letters, we can't see the person's facial expression and we can't hear the tone of voice so it can be easy to misconstrue a meaning especially if the reader has had a bad day. We don't need another "civil war."

I also liked Judy's Eclecticon report. It really was fun and look forward to the second one.

Congrats on Randy getting a job!

Dead Bothan Nora: Gee, did you like *Courtship*? Only teasing! I know you didn't like it at all but I did. There were parts in the book that rubbed me the wrong way, such as point 2, but I find that with fanfic as well. There never will be the perfect SW story (pro or fan) 'cause you can't please everyone.

I enjoyed *Crystal Star* as well. Nicely done, IMO.

Dead Bothan Z.P.: Don't forget that some of us doll makers live in MD :) . Anyway, liked your response to Barbara Anderson re: *The Rest Of The Garbage*.

Marti: I haven't heard much grumbling about the 3rd plate either. Agree with Cheree on the original art versus stock.

A.G.: Re: the cardboard Han... Hey, it's better than nothing. He's great to have at a silly hat party (which we had over New Year's at Liz Sharpe's house to celebrate 1995 and a few December birthdays). Han lived up to his part of the bargain and became quite silly in his hats. Right now he's wearing my silly hat from the party and a minister's collar [I don't know what they're called]. Father Han??). Believe me, he can be almost as much fun in bed (it happened at MW this past year) as the real thing, not that I'll ever get the real thing.

Next time you're in the States east of the Mississippi, come on over and visit. We Dead Bothans know how to show people a fun time.

Interesting timeline.

Bela: Welcome to SE!!

Pat: Just send all your snow to me. The weather over the holidays was lousy. Temps were in the 50 to 60 degree

range. I felt like I was in Florida! (Apologies to Belea). Finally temps cooled down quite a bit but then warmed up in mid January to 70!!!! Someone wants me to be miserable during winter as I am in summer. However, it is finally cooling down to around 30 and we survived our very weak sleet/freezing rain episode. No more of the freezing ice stuff. I want snow! Please!!

Louise: I loved *Bad Feeling!* I highly recommend it to everyone. Very well done.

Hey, remember a few of us (Judy, Jennifer and Barbara) will be vacationing on Hoth in the winter and tauntaun riding is a must. Warm clothing? We don't need those! That was one of my favorite cards.

How about those wide screen cards? They've been delayed another 2 weeks so we will hopefully see them the first of February but the promo cards look fantastic. On one of the promos, I saw part of a scene from SW that I had totally missed!

Yes, Wedge's girlfriend, Qwi, is slightly blue but blue and orange are the colors of my favorite football team — the Miami Dolphins so I have no problem except that they lost in the Playoffs!

The wolves had to be sent back because the government changed its mind (again!) and felt that ducks and birds will bring people to the new visitor center. Excuse me, but I can see *them* in my own backyard. I was willing to travel once a month or so to see these cubs grow up. Oh well, I'll never forget my experiences with them. It was once in a lifetime.

Honorary Dead Bothan Carolyn: Story idea re: ex-Imps and the new gov't? I'll put that on the way back burner. I know how you feel — I'd like about 40 hours in a day and a clone to go to work for me so I could stay home and do all my zine reading/doll making.

Ming: I think the costuming award is a nice idea and certainly might encourage people especially if they don't write.

Tim: In your response to Barbara about overuse of the Force, you mentioned "the act of seeing into the future could change the future you are seeing into, until you see only what you want to see...". Could that have happened to Palpatine because he said everything was progressing as he had foreseen. But just how much had he seen or believed he had seen and drawn his own conclusions?

Amanda: Good to finally meet (albeit briefly) in NJ. Hopefully we'll have more time to spend at E-con 2.

Your comments were right on the credit about canon/POV.

Dead Bothan Jennifer: Good phrasing on the question and may you fry in your own heat wave this summer. In other words, keep it on your side of the Potomac!

Dead Bothan Mary Jo: It really is interesting to see how all the workers at Another Universe and my comic books

stores know us by sight and that I know the entire layout of the dozen or more TRUs. I look forward to 1995 and all the new SW stuff we'll be buried under.

Liked the way you put your thoughts about the pro books controversy.

Judy: I'm waiting for that snow with a huge baseball glove. Send it my way!

I know, I feel very lucky to have found so many SW fans in this area. My life is richer (and busier) because of it.

Your comments re: the books were well put, too.

I really do care what everyone thinks about the novels. I respect everyone's opinions/feelings and their rights to those opinions/feelings. Writers (new/old) will use elements from the novels (Hi, Nora!) to tell a story. Early writers did it with the Daley books. I'm thrilled that these novels might get some new writers involved in fandom and it also keeps the Saga in the forefront.

Dead Bothan Cheryl: (Hi, Lin!) Hope to see you next ish!

J.P.: I know you're reading this. Per our phone conversation, get your hands dirty and send in a letter. I know the perfect way to get you involved: I'll tell everyone that you got to go to Lucasfilm and took "the tour".

A few last notes: Hard to believe it's 1995 already. Time sure has flown by and MW is just right around the corner. I really wish it was still November so we can be sure the doll exhibit is finished on time. Please, please one and all, find a few minutes out of your very hectic MW schedule (I know it is really hard) to visit the doll exhibit. It will probably be set up late morning Saturday and taken down directly after the Star Awards Sunday. It will be in the FOE cantina. We would like to keep this up as an annual tradition not only because we enjoy doing this but hope others enjoy seeing it as well. Each and every costume is hand sewn, sculpted or glued together as well as extensively researched to get as close to perfect as we can. None of the outfits were premade (except on the GI Joes and Barbies which are used as local color. Not enough days in a decade to do those). We will have 4 scenes set up. One directly from the movie and 3 are interpretive scenes from in between or after ROTJ.

Some of the planning has gone on more than a year as we are already planning for 1996. I hope that all of you MW attendees stop by and visit. We welcome comments of any kind. Thanks!

I just got (finally after more than a year) the SW chess board and it is gorgeous. I will be bringing it to MW if anyone wants to check it out.

Anyone catch *ST: Voyager?* Really nicely done!

New plates are coming out this year. The first is the *Millennium Falcon* as painted by Sonia Hilios. The plate is beautiful from the brochure I got. She is an excellent ST

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artist and look forward to getting this plate.

The last thing I want to mention is the ballot for the Star Awards should be out with this SE mailing. Please vote! The 40 something voters we had last year was an appalling number. I know it will be hard as there will be a lot of stories to vote on but take a few minutes to vote. Thanks!

Take care all and Fly Casually In The Force!

P.S. The very minor dusting of white flakes that I got on 1/22 does NOT count!

## A NEW HOPE

Amanda Palumbo  
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January 23, 1994

Hohohohoho ... BAH, HUMBUG!!! This lady was only too happy to consign 1994 into wide open orifice of Carkoon! Hope everybody else's holidays were all wished for and more!

Just out of curiosity, was New Year's really instituted to give a psychological ray of hope? Has nothing to do with equinox, dying/rising, God and other sundry beliefs. OK — I'm subscribing to New Year's fresh-start premise. Sounds good. Hey, what an original idea — let's call 1995 "A New Hope" — shucks, it's been used already.

Winter's been far milder with Toby the Taun-Taun wondering why I bothered constructing him in the first place! Think I'll ship him to the recently beleagured state of MO. Oh, Marti ... ya have any room by the shiny, new fence to stable Tobsters?

Maggie Nowakowska: Thanks for the continuing "Golden Age" recollections and excerpts. Fandom would be hard-pressed to find a more capable chronicler. It also provides valuable insight into the current occasional tribal flares, perhaps forcing some to reevaluate their own pristine, righteous motives (*moi* included — taint none without sin, but equilibrium of a sort is desirable for *some* cohesiveness — another opinion expressed; hah!).

Judith: What a pleasure meeting you at Eclecticon — apologies for being a less-than-brilliant conversationalist; we were all pretty zoned out by weekend's end.

Mary Jo: Despite erroneous directions and other obstructions, we managed to finally touch base! Yay, you were nearly as out of it as I! Hey, legal eagle ... batten down them hatches and go full hyper-velocity to knock out them bar exams. Aw, I'm waiting *Snowfire's* release with baited breath. "Ice-Princess", my defensive end. THANK-YOU for the girls' present — the ANH read-along has been

enjoyed 100% already! Also, it gave the appearance of toys being under our Charlie Brown tree. You are an ANGEL!

Brian: I will make a particular student transpose "Lapti Nek" as soon as he's capable — I broke down and jotted an easy version of "Power-yeeccchh-Rangers". Yeah, there's actually *some* muzak in there. The things maestras must do to motivate pupils. Inspires my creativatin' more (great word, Bri — Oxford's been petitioned to add it)! Smooth move still? Naw, not the *prunes* — who said that? Interesting observation re: Zahn trilogy (not U, Sue! Your surname's on the rolls in Bantam's files; why not slip 'em one of your stories ... or a Mickey Finn, even?). Hambly's forthcoming novel should prove the best of the bunch — she's well grounded in both fantasy and sci-fi adaptation. Quite versed in the struggles in Dark and Light, and the philosophical intricacies inherent. The author is also a black-belt Karate competitor. If I hear of *one* more box o' mac&cheez, you're gonna get an East Coast care pkg! Ah, another who worships the java bean. C'mon; one talon at a time off the gypsum tiles. See ya at MWC, *I hope!*

Z. P.: You've inspired me more than you can ever know. TA.

Barbara Anderson: Tip o' the fedora; sorry we missed the trek to the house o' drool! Loved your hat. Team Ford, huh? Visiting the *Sabrina* set? 100% concurrence — Jedi aren't invincible. That's what keeps scenarios interesting, and "Mrs. Skywalker" (hahahaha) sporting her lightsaber. "Walk softly and carry a — lightsaber," as Teddy R. always said!

Nora: Taken out of context, Yoda's expressions, ear movements and all could be construed in that fashion. Yet, why did he grouse so at Luke's "recklessness" at the hasty departure? How's the equine side of the Force these days? Gimme a hint, please? What are you wearing to MWC, aside from clothes? *I still can't sew* either, but have managed my older daughter's trouser holes.

Louise: Wedge, Wedge, Wedge ... suffering from a terminal case of a colossal space Wedgie, m'dear. WELL?? He's hangin' out the ol' *Tantive* airlock by a line waiting for you to complete part deux of TOF! Don't blame it on Gerald, either! I've a *good* feeling re: your *Bad Feeling* ... as soon as I can afford it! Mortgage and utilities first, you understand. Oh, talk to Veronica re: Vader/Anakin as Romantic 90's metal head. Now, who is it that has a Vader shrine in their boudoir? I forgot ... there is hope for Rieekan in your universe; wasn't he encased in ice, awaiting resurrection like an archeologist (ahem) excavating wooly mammoths? Unlike us, they possess Bacta technology! In one of my parodies, Leia is ready to assassinate all those plastering her scantily-clad form on cards etc. ... neutrality between opposing military scrubs *is* recorded history — with all the spaceports garrisoned,

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there must be a few watering, or whatever holes where both drink, trading sorrows, agreeing (a) they disagree, (b) both have lost loved ones, (c) they can't wait to get back to the mayhem on the morrow, (d) they hate the war, and perhaps even ... (e) it helps defray tuition costs, and seemed the logical thing to do at the time.

Gerald: You really should launch a one-shot Threepio zine. You can even find an illustrator for it, if you search hard enough!

Pat Grant, and others interested in mulling: Whatever prevented both Yoda and Kenobi being terminated in the Purge — could it also have prevented a few others from suffering the same fate? An old speculation to be sure, but perhaps reexamination might yield new answers?

Ming: Glad to hear the goblet — there's a parody in this somewhere — survived its trans-coastal journey. My vacuum does occasionally behave with a sentient attitude at times. Yours? How many bytes=capability of independent thought? What is the actual *speed* of thought? If inorganic synapses mimic organic, if engrams/personality can be impressed/inputted ... yep, an H of a time ... "One boy's feeling against the survival of a universe" — no, not a happy thought, but how many tides have been turned *favorably* based on such a seemingly precarious judgment call by a pivot? Is it the mark of a potential Jedi who can discern, perhaps untangle Time's myriad threaded knot? I also can find no basis for the supposition that Han was sexually molested, schizo ... he's a *survivor*! And, possessing a great deal of good luck to bolster the demonstrated savvy! To me, Leia would rather fling an oppressive Empire down a shaft, as would vice-versa! Very accurate with a blaster, flew the *Falcon* ... nice to chat briefly at Eclecticon.

Marti: Warmest of thoughts directed your way, dear. That philosophical crack is actually a chasm, and not necessarily ominous! Hooray!!! Oh, I didn't say Luke *required* a traditional family of his own to achieve emotional involvement — his relationship with Han, and I'm sure with his students prove that! All I was trying to point out that it *might* be something he'd wish for. Something to *enhance*, balance, though *yes*, one can find their joy in any path, or most anyway, if one seeks hard enough. I still feel it's a viable direction for him, though I agree that it *would* take someone unique and fascinating to pique that type of interest. In my own SW fiction, Luke is quite attached to one of his proteges in particular, though all are regarded as family. Your interpretation of Yoda's reaction to Luke's statement of confidence to Kenobi before departing for Bespin is plausible, and jibes with my own.

Debbie Kittle: A crossed lightsaber salute to ya! The last free ten\$ I'd see in a long time was well invested — thanks!

Tammy Olsen: Saved the best for last, SkySis! Biggest gratitude for the girls' Bend-Ems, and even a toy for me — that "ActionMaster Luke" inspired *SkySongs #12-15* — it's *your* fault I'm inexorably drawn to the malfunctioning keyboards when Marianne's frontspiece illo is awaiting final touches! (oh, I jes' luuuuv smudging that Ice-Blue-Eyed Magnificent One's chest — yahoo, coocoo for Cocoa-Puffs!!!) There's actually an ephemeral prayer I'll be going to MWC — solo, even, though if finances don't improve, I'll have to forgo. Another Tag Sale time! *Down with Palpi's Protege's oppressive attitude re: my wee-hours creativity!* Only he's waking up and noticing it!!! Grrr ... freedom is a battle fought on many fronts!

Catherine Churko: Keep on with your dreams, lady. We're rooting 4U!

Arwen, and all you other peoples at Eclecticon: Nice to touch base with y'all! See you next year! Two tankfuls of gas I'll be able to afford by the end of Oct. for *my* "thing"! I hear it'll be occurring before FOE's annual bash this time. Let's do a Villain Panel. (Last time, death of grandmother prevented my wish to do the others — '94 was one H of a year all across the board!) Loved *Imperium 4* — way to go, Edimatrix, and contribs!

Best to everybody, and may the Light Side of the Force be with All!

Cheree: As always, *thank you* continuing SE (and *Tremor*) — you provide an invaluable network for "snail-mailers", and fandom in general. A special plaque should be hanging on *your* wall for your *long* contribution! 21-ion-cannon salute!!!

Yvette: C'mon back out and play. You know how highly I regard Leia's heroism, and continual self-sacrifice. Bet she'd set up a place for displaced Alderaans, like a Consul/Embassy until something more permanent can be arranged.

## GET A LIFE!

Mary Jo Fox  
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Howdy fellow SW fans and Dead Bothans! I apologize for my semi-conscious, semi-grumpy state at Eclecticon, as I had scant to eat that day and very little sleep the night before. Regardless, I was thrilled to meet many of you in person. I'll never forget how Amanda and Kym kept missing me, and vice versa, until right before we left! Next year, gals, Force willing...

I'm eagerly awaiting the Widevision cards — they should've been out for a while by the time you read this. *Dark Lords of the Sith* is coming along great — what an

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incredible comic! Even if it had no connection at all with SW, it's still excellent sci-fi/adventure. And *Dark Empire II* ... yeah!!! Same killer art on the cover and inside, more of Veitch's wonderful, epic script. I just hope they don't blow the Boba Fett unmasking. Maybe it's Harlan Ellison inside that suit! Ha ha!

More news on Bantam publishing: rumor has it that Margaret Weis was so mortally offended by the Energizer bunny ad, she cancelled her plans to write a SW novel. (Geez, Mags, have a sense of humor, will you!). I guess this leaves it wide open for a variety of folks to do a novel in her place, including those who have already had a shot at it. I read somewhere that Tom Veitch has been interested in doing a novel, and Kathy Tyers would like to do another one. We'll see. Also, Kevin J. Anderson is writing *The Star Wars Chronology*, which will be out in late 1996 or so. Allegedly, it will be the definitive book on continuity, but not necessarily canon.

Judy: Your soapbox was right on the money. I'll just add that I've read many stories in zines that deal with the Corporate Sector Authority, Han's stint in the Academy, his subsequent court martial, and the Wookiee life debt/blood oath. All of that stuff came not from the films, but from Brian Daley's Han Solo novels! Today, almost everyone seems to accept them as canon, and takes them for granted. If people want to incorporate stuff from the recent novels or from West End Games, so what? It's not any less valid than anything I or anyone else could make up, and besides, it's the new novels, comics, and so on that are helping to bring new writers into fandom. That's not a bad thing, is it?

Maggie: I keep reading your *Jundland Wastes* history with interest. In some ways, nothing has changed. But that whole Church of Ford thing ... talk about idiocy on an epic scale! It's hard to believe this was perpetrated by alleged adults. Judging by some of the comments quoted, there were plenty of folks in need of serious psychological help. I sincerely hope that these fanatics do not get back into this scene. I know, it sounds terrible, but I think that we could all do without such viciousness and venom spewing forth from those in dire need of a life.

Louise: James Addams' story "Antilles" is headed for *Imperium* #5, as of writing. You never know, he may do a sequel or another story in time for your zine. As for myself, I'm still trying to come up with a great idea. Be patient!

Gerald: First of all, I must continue to compliment you on your artwork. Your illos in *Tremor* #8 just blew me away. Your cartoons and caricatures are great, too! I happen to like reading and writing action-oriented stories, in addition to character-oriented stories. Admittedly, combining those two elements is extremely difficult. Ever since I started writing SW stuff three years ago, my respect

for George Lucas has grown, for that very reason. But, yeah, give me a good speeder bike chase or space dogfight any day. In fact, if I had a choice between renting a Van Damme flick over some cutesy tearjerker, I'd save the Kleenex and go with the karate kicks!

Tim: Yeah, Neil Gaiman would do a great SW novel! Like Lucas, Gaiman has an excellent grasp of world mythology. If the late, great Joseph Campbell was still with us, he'd be a *Sandman* fan too. I agree with your other choices as well. Another author I'd like to see do a novel is Terry Brooks — if he could handle the technology. But his Shannara series is so much like SW, down to the lost heirs, the mystical order that had to be restored, the Han Solo-like sidekicks, and the clash between good and evil. In fact, the Shannara saga is SW, only set in a fantasy universe.

Amanda: Thanks for sharing your experiences in Trek fandom. I see eerie parallels myself, but the Bjo Trimble quote was cool. Absolutely true.

Nora: Allow this Bothanette to explain things from a Post '91-er perspective. Though I didn't read zines until 1992, SW never really went away for me either. But for those of us not in zinedom, there was no way to keep in touch with other SW fans. There was no Internet, no America Online, no comic book lettercols. So, I, like a lot of other people, went around believing I was the only person who gave a Bantha's behind about SW. There was nothing to draw me or other fans together! SW fandom was so underground in the late '80s, not even folks in other fandoms knew about it, and I knew quite a few active Trek fans. When the RPG came out in 1987, I believed I was the only person in America who bought it. I devoured each sourcebook as it came out, as it was one of my few connections to the SW universe, one of the few things, that in my mind, kept it alive. The day that *Heir to the Empire* came out was one of the happiest days, for me, in so many years. And when I got that book, I was also sure that I was the only person in America who bought it. But things started to happen when that book became a hit ... *Dark Empire* came out months later, to be followed by more "official" SW stuff. I hadn't seen anything like it since I was 14, and neither had a lot of other folks I had come to meet later on when CSW #6 published my letter 2 years ago. For a lot of them, the comics and novels, if not the RPG, did bring the "old days" back. Some of these guys subsequently started reading zines and writing their own stories — this includes a good number of contributors to *Snowfire*, people I have referred to other zines, and in our own presence, Brian and Amanda. They may refer to events, people, places, etc. from the pro material, but everyone puts his or her own spin on things. We may like the new material, but we are also creative beings with our own views and perspectives. We are not stupid, brainless

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little robots.

Well, with that off my chest, I'll end things on a cheery note. I bet many of you caught the sci-fi retrospective show that aired on Fox back in December. My fave moment was when that robot from *Lost in Space* was doing his "Danger! Danger!" routine, only to be shut off the same way Threepio was shut off in TESB, by Carrie Fisher. Classic!

## KEEP YOUR TINGERS CROSSED!

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January 24, 1995

G'day all! And Happy New Year! And it certainly has been that for me! Which makes a nice change after the grief with which I concluded 1994. I had to say a very sad farewell to my beloved cocker spaniel/wookiee friend of over 14 years, Bonnie. I had her put out of her pain on December 7th.

My good luck began shortly after my sister insisted on going out and making sure I got another cocker puppy. My new wookiee mate's name is Honey, and she is wonderful! Around that time I was amazed and thrilled to have received further letters from Kathy Tyers (*Truce at Bakura*) and she offered to give me an introduction to her editor at West End Games' *Star Wars Adventure Journal*! Early this month I received a letter from that editor, enclosing copyright papers etc., and inviting me to please submit a story! To say I was elated is an understatement! I immediately had to call someone and celebrate and our esteemed editor, Cheree, was chosen to have her ear chewed off!

At any rate, I am posting out my story proposal (working title: *Firepower*) to West End Games today, so please everyone, keep your fingers crossed ... hard!

On top of all that excitement I also had a letter from an American literary agency expressing interest in representing my SF/F novel! Hey, who knows, I may even get this thing published yet!

So, I've been busy! But had to take time out to devour every word of the last issue of *Southern Enclave*, and also of *A Tremor in the Force 8* which arrived at the same time! What a feast! There is a very definite renewal of top quality SW fiction and great to see many new writers and zines! Way to go, guys! Don't forget to get in your Fan Q and Star Award nominations! I predict a close run between Wanda's "Mirrors" and Nora's *Pursuit of the Nashtah*!

Okay, now to the responses I have scribbled in the margins of SE 40! (Hey, Cheree, you and SE hit the big one around the same time! Heh, heh.) ((*Ed: Actually, I hit the big one two years ago. March 1st marked my 42nd birthday!*))) First many thanks to Maggie Nowakowska for another installment in SW fan history. That was the first thing I read, and it's as engrossing as any thriller! The "Han/Luke uproar" and the subsequent total misrepresentation of the intent of several fan authors with regard to these characters (notably Maggie's excellent *ThousandWorld* series) answers my question of the previous SE re why story reviews/analysis have dropped off in letterzines in recent years, i.e. fear! That's a shame.

Maggie's article also gave interesting insight into fan apprehension after the trailer of ROJ was released. I wasn't involved in fandom at that time, so I always wondered what the fantalk had been! "Fear that an over-reliance on puppetry will affect the believability of the Saga" — how unfortunately prescient! I very much liked the one fan's point that "no one gets Leia, rather she chooses which man she wants." Exactly! Also the point that "all (fanzone story) reviews have POV, and ... readers will have to judge accordingly."

Many thanks also to Judy Yuenger for her fun report on Electicon. Wish I could have been there! Or at least that my phone call had connected!

On the personal front I was so very happy to read Cheree's good news re Randy's new job! Way to go! December 7th, huh? I swear there were some very strange, but good vibes around the results of that day. Anyway, it looks as though 1995 may just turn out to be a great year for us all! Here's hoping! Touch wood!

It kind of makes me blush to ask this (yes, a "Corellian" who blushes!), but I'd love to get back to MediaWest Con to celebrate all this good news with you all in May, but my credit card has died of terminal overload. Fortunately, Liz, Judy, and Nora have come to the rescue with a nomination of me for FanFund (I kiss your toes in humble obeisance!). So could you all (grovel) kind of, uh, like maybe, remember to vote for me? Pretty please and I promise to remember you all in my will!

Another item I will need to scrape up money for is a computer! West End Games insist that stories must be submitted on IBM compatible discs as well as hard copy! AUGH! Can anyone recommend what would be the cheapest machine I could purchase to make them happy? And any banks that are easy targets for robbery?! :)

Boy, this LoC is getting oversized rapidemente! So some quick responses:

Nora: Re *Courtship of Princess Leia*. I found I could enjoy the book (except the first two chapters which are too far off character) by thinking of it as I would a sort of alternate universe SW fan story. I've always loved fantasy

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settings and thought Wolverton did a good job with his description of Dathomir, and also with the building tension of the action towards the end. *If* the witches were like Grimm's, I have no problem with that. As regards your argument, point-by-point: I don't have any problem with items raised in 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 but agree 100% with the remainder, especially 10! Also agree with your comments about the merits of fanfic v. pro, but a fan by definition is a fanatic *i.e.*, someone who will want to read any and all SW material. Non fandom fans who are currently devouring the pro novels will surely begin to look elsewhere for more and may thus discover fanzines. Then they can decide which they prefer, and we'll be selling more zines! The bottom line is good or bad, the new material is refocusing attention where we want it!

I can only partly agree with the LOCer who said had she not discovered fanzines she'd have thought the pro books wonderful. I began writing my own SW fiction in 1984 because, aside from a notable few, most stories were not exactly my preference, *i.e.*, focused on Han/Leia and/or adventures with all 4 major characters. If I'd read only the pro books, aside from *Truce*, I'd have had even more an urgent need to write my own! If they were all like *Truce* I'd certainly have been happy enough, except that I want many many more than pro publishing could produce. So as I said, it seems to me fanzines are going to be collecting a lot of new readers because of the pro books.

My feelings on the subject can be summed up by Debbie Kittle's comment, "no one has written the perfect SW Story because... we all have differing opinions." I also agree with Judy Yuenger's feelings about being somewhat intimidated by the fiercely passionate anti pro books reactions in some quarters. I too sort of felt I'd be labelled a moron if I said I enjoyed *Courtship*, etc.

A. G. Steyn: I too wanted Tyer's Dev character to survive ... and so did she! But she was voted down by her editor apparently on the grounds that there were too many would-be Jedis popping up in the other pro books. I disagree. I think of them all, Dev would have been the best! Oh, A.G., thanks for the plug re Ford's accidents on the *Gunsmoke* set! Yep, that sounds like one of mine all right!

Marti: Agree with you re no movies rating systems for zines.

Blela T. Keeney: Welcome! And great comments! Your point re Lucas not "giving" us SW really got me thinking, and yes, you're absolutely right! Puts the whole fanzine debate in a new light for me!

Pat Grant: Agree with your comments re explicit sex and about slash stories for the most part being out of character. Applauded your point about Kevin Anderson's weak Republic needing the Jedi to save them. "Isn't that where it all began"! Indeed! Re the MWC accom-

mmodation problems ... hey, I say they should erect a tent city in the car park! Kidding, of course, but yes, more rooms please! Agree also re strong female characters in *Cagney and Lacey*. Great show. Me and you re opinion on Ewoks ... blech! Disagree re your feelings over Leia's sarcasm in ANH. I feel her "mouth" is her way of coping with fear and terror, and probable near collapse, and that Solo recognizes and responds to this, knowing it's his way of handling things too. You and I could have a long discussion re that and also re your view of "there is no try". Sometimes it seems harsh, then sometimes I think Yoda meant it specifically for Luke and that moment, *i.e.*, that his power was dependent on his strength of will. Many thanks for your words of appreciation re the Local Color characters in the Cantina. I had *so much fun!* Hope to write to you soon and give that LoC you wanted for FOE. And I just *love* your ideas for our own SW Masquerade at the dance! Oh, I've *gotta* get back to MediaWest this year even if just for that! Finally, I'm glad you're hooked on SE LoCing!

Louise Turner: Hiya! Excellent summary re Imps/Rebels in neutral setting. The SW fanzine situation in Australia sounds the same as for Britain is predominantly a male domain. Interesting. Oh how I laughed over your calling Threepio "Creepio"! Love it! Hey, you didn't tell me about your Welsh descent!

Ming and the "Star Awards Consortium". A big *Yes*. Please to your SW costume awards! Love your lion and the lamb analogy and Solo's advice re same!

Mary Jo Fox: I gave your pro v. zine story debate comments the most applause marks! Well, yours and Judy's! If anyone wants my opinion I can just direct them to these comments! Well said! Especially that last sentence advising us all not to forget "the humor, the joy, the triumph, even the silliness that are all part of SW too."

Enough, I gotta get out of here before Cheree shoots me for giving her RSI! ((*Ed: That's Repetitive Stress Injury, also known as carpal tunnel syndrome, for those who don't know — and I've already got it, Carolyn!*)) And we all gotta look after our Cheree, the heart of SW fandom!



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## OUR LITTLE HOBBY

Belea T. Keeney  
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January 27, 1995

Greeting Fellow Enclavers!!

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope everyone had a pleasant holiday season. Isn't it a joy that we have SE to share our ideas about our "little hobby"? Don't you like to open the mailbox and see that thick yellow envelope from Cheree? Sure beats those dammed little glassine envelopes with the PO Box return addresses that you just know are not warm wishes from your creditors.

I do have a favor to ask of any trusting SE'er. Does anyone have a copy of issue #36 that they would be willing to loan me? I have #35 and #37, but Cheree has sold out of 36 and I would really like to read the letters and discussion. Please drop me a postcard and I'll be more than happy to forward an SASE for the loaner. Thanks in advance.

Was anyone else as underwhelmed as I was with the third installment of the *Jedi Academy* trilogy? Honestly, I've tried, really tried to read *Champions of the Force* no less than three times and I just could not do it! It was work getting through the first two. I just don't think that reading a SW book should be work. The characters are uninvolving and Luke is on such a downer.

In fact, except for *Truce at Bakura*, I haven't liked any of the pro fiction that's been released. The new Vonda McIntyre is in the bookstores now, but I'm not going to spend \$25 to read it in hardcover. I may pick it up next year in paperback. I realized that it is partly my own fault; my interest in SW is more focused now on the prequel to ANH. The Clone Wars, the start of the Empire, the fall of the Republic, Obi-Wan and Anakin are what I want to read and see films about. Now here is a question for my fellow fans — have I just gotten spoiled by the high quality of some fanfiction that the official stories can now only seem boring? Am I destined to be sorely disappointed with the next three movies because of this? Is this a normal hazard of fanfic readers? Help!!

To answer in general some previous comments about the lack of new plots and ideas — remember for some of us, this is all new. Since I've only been actively collecting zines for the past six months or so, most of the stories I've read are fresh and exciting. In fact, I had a story of my own sketchily plotted out involving a woman sold in an Imperial-arranged marriage to protect her father and lo and behold!! I open up *Tremor in the Force* #8 and Veronica

Wilson has already written a very interesting story along those same lines. For those of you who have been involved for fifteen years or so, of course it's bound to get repetitive. And I think frankly, until George comes out with the new trilogy, there may not be a whole lot of new directions to go in. The new stories that arise from Kenobi, Anakin, the young Palpatine and Luke and Leia's mother will doubtless provide lots of ideas to bounce off on.

Perhaps we could think of it as sort of a big pinball machine — and maybe episodes 4, 5, and 6 have pretty much had about as much ball bouncing as it can take without breaking the glass top (*i.e.*, slash, cross universe, graphic violence, etc.).

Saw the Energizer rabbit vs. Vader commercial — hated it. End of comment.

My Xmas present to myself this year was the boxed Trilogy Laserdisc collection!! OOOOHHHH!! It's been a blast to have. The entire set is CAV (techno talk for constant angular velocity.) I have no idea what it really means except I can go frame by frame to watch certain scenes — most enlightening! If any of you have any questions about certain scenes, feel free to ask me to watch and I will report back to you. I did watch the lightsaber duel in TESB again and Luke's strike on Vader was on the neck, not on the arm or elsewhere.

The laserdisc set is amazing! Each movie has a half hour side of supplemental materials with things like the original movie trailers and interviews with the principal creators (Lucas, Dennis Muren, Ken Ralston, etc.), behind the scenes tours of the special effects labs and some still photos of archive material. There is also an analog soundtrack with a voiceover narration about sfx in particular scenes. And of course the whole soundtrack is just wonderful. With a non hifi VHS machine all these years, I'd forgotten some of the neat noises that came across in the theater.

The trailers for TESB were the most interesting I thought. There is a scene where 3PO rips something off a wall and also a very romantic looking almost/pre kiss with Leia and Luke (in the med center). It's definitely not the flippant kiss we saw in TESB, it was sweet and yearning. The very first trailer released was composed entirely of zooms into still photos and storyboards with no live action at all.

Attention, Veronica, Cheryl and Tina and other followers of His Sithlord's Dark Worshipfulness: In the Emperor's death scene, the implanted skeletal/skull special effects in Vader are very weird! Each skull is different, some are almost feline or lupine in appearance, and Vader's entire right arm is mechanical. Also, there seems to be mechanical additions/spinal discs on his neck near the skull. It's fairly creepy to see it that way.

So, some specific comments:

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Veronica Wilson: "I'm not worthy!" (insert smiley face here!). Your stories in *Tremor*, *Shadow Jedi* and *Imperium* were mightily enjoyed and re-read here in my household. Your characterization of our favorite Sith Lord is right on target — not too harsh, not too wimpy. Please, please, please keep writing your stories for us Vader fans!

Also I can sympathize with your hard work and effort towards getting your Ph.D. My Masters degree took me just over two years full time and boy, writing it was sometimes a bitch and a half. What worked well for me was constructing a timeline with my graduation date at the top and working backwards to set internal deadlines for my lit review, data collection, analysis and results.

During the last year, I also kept my committee posted monthly with the schedule for thesis work. I pencilled in submission dates for copy with my expectations for their turnaround time included. This way I had the extra incentive of keeping to a timeline that other people knew about and that was a little pressure in itself. It must have worked — I am a college graduate!!

Z. P. Florian: You're not short dear, you're vertically challenged!! Don't let the vertically advantaged make you feel as though you don't measure up. Remember, you're a giant among us SW fans; a prolific writer and talented illustrator to boot. I really enjoyed your work on Veronica's story in TF#8!! Very well done! Glad to hear that you'll be producing *The Rest of the Garbage* for us smutfans.

Louise Turner: Which exact scene did you think you saw females in the Imperial honor guard? Let me know and I'll be glad to look at it on disc and tell you what I see.

Maggie Nowakowska: Your historical analysis on the *Jundland Wastes* has been fascinating for this neofan. I'm looking forward to the next installment. It's been a valuable history lesson for me and even makes me curious to read some of the letters and discussion that prompted such rabid responses. I think Ming has some of the back issues; I'll order some from her to check it out for myself.

That's it for now. If business permits, I'm going to make a sincere effort to get up to Lansing for the MWC in May and I hope to meet some of you in the flesh. It just depends on how busy Memorial Day will be for me and if I feel comfortable leaving things in the hands of my assistant manager. If anyone has any tips or suggestions for first-time attendees I'd love to hear them!



## CORELLIAN CUISINE

Tim Blaes  
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Happy Year of the Pig! Hopefully it will be a better year for this Metal Rat than the last, which was a real Dog of a year.

Nora Mayers: By some criteria the pro books are more "real" than fan fiction. They are blessed by the creators/owners, however casually. In the remote chance that Lucas ever does produce the last trilogy, I'm willing to bet he'll feel little obligation to adhere to anything set down in the current line of books. How "real" will they be then?

You mentioned A.C. Crispin has a SW novel in the works. I can't say I'm all that enthusiastic. *Writer's Digest* once suggested that fanzines were a good place for beginning writers to learn their craft, and cited Crispin as someone who got their start in zines. Crispin fired back, that anything of hers published in a fanzine was not originally written for that purpose, and that writing for fanzines would probably stunt your growth as a writer. Pardon me if I hold a grudge.

Z. P. Florian: Why would the Ewoks befriend Leia then try to eat Han? Well, she's pretty scrawny, don't you think? Not much meat on her. And perhaps the Ewoks have read that classic tome of Corellian cuisine, "To Serve Han".

Marti Schuller: What man would endure the discomfort of carrying a child to term? I would, if it was for the right woman. This is not to say I would have no concerns. As far as I know it's only theoretically possible, and I would want to know what effect my metabolism would have on the child's development, not to mention the child's effect on my metabolism. But if she couldn't do it, why shouldn't I volunteer?

Debbie Kittle: A pro writer might do well to get feedback from media fans. But our reasons for writing, and our goals in reading fan fiction are not always the same as a pro writer/publisher. The problem some fans have, as I see it, isn't that they have two sets of standards for pro & fan fiction. The problem is that they don't have two sets of standards.

You're probably right that Leia wouldn't have time to do a zine, or watch "TV" or see "movies", even if Alderaan had such things. But if she uses her life and the people in her life as a basis for works of fiction, then she might get into the same sort of trouble Tom Wolfe did. "Look Homeward, Ewok" might lose Leia a few friends. Perhaps she might write bedtime stories for her children?

A. G. Steyn: A "laser bidet" could too easily be rigged for assassination; I'll stick with two-ply.

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Mark Hamill licked chocolate off who's bare bosom?

Belea Keeney: Paramount set a precedent of sorts by ignoring Trek-zines, gen and adult. But legally that doesn't extend to Lucasfilm. To be fair, copyright/trademark law can be dicey for both fans and copyright holders.

I feel the ideal situation for both the studios and the fans would be to *publicly* not acknowledge each other, but discreetly pay very close attention to the other. A studio should not feel *obliged* to any sort of fan pressure, but they would be stupid to *ignore* fans who support them. I don't care much for studio interference in fannish affairs, even unintentional interference. Not long after *The Wrath of Khan*, a prominent ST letterzine became aware that Harve Bennett was a subscriber. The change in everyone's behavior was not pretty.

I suppose it boils down to respect and understanding, on our part as much as theirs. It's a shame most studios don't want to understand us, let alone respect us.

Brian Harris: Books and films each have their own method of pacing and story development. I've read plenty of fiction, pro and fannish, that was dense and very difficult to read, yet left me with the impression that it might make a wonderful movie. I can't help but wonder, if Zahn's books were to be made into movies would they make a better impression?

I also wonder what Zahn's loudest detractors would be willing to say to his face.

Louise Turner: I suppose the artists on the first set of *SW Galaxy* cards had to get Leia's slave-girl outfit out of their system. I have no objection to sexy pin-ups of Leia, but I hope future artists' imaginations extend beyond the brass bathing suit. Leia's sex appeal has been evident in everything she has worn. And I wonder what styles of lingerie are popular in a galaxy far away. (Hey! Somebody has to think about these things.)

If I remember correctly, Rieekan's death in TESB was filmed, but ended up on the cutting room floor. So that plot point in your universe is at least semi-canon.

If you truly met a man who fit your ideal Romantic Hero, are you sure you'd really want him? He sounds glum and neurotic to me. Be careful what you wish for...

Carolyn Golledge: What is more important — the author's intent in a work of art, or what the audience sees/feels regardless? The subjective nature of art leads me to conclude the latter.

The first thing *all* of us do when we write fan fiction is "customize" it. We do this by emphasizing this, de-emphasizing that, and otherwise treating the source material like silly putty. Fan fiction based on TV shows seldom copies the pace or format of the original program. I've seen things far stranger than reworking Han & Leia into a 13th Century Welsh setting. And then there is the emotional and intellectual baggage we stuff into our

writing. The thing is, we don't always agree on what is "in character", and arguing over what is can lead to things like the "Church of Ford/Cathedral of Luke" unpleasantness.

Would smuggling water to Tatooine really be cost effective? If water was that precious wouldn't everyone be wearing "stillsuits"?

Amanda Palumbo: The quote I remember from Bjo Trimble was, "Put any three Trek fan together and you'll have *four* differing opinions." I know this to be true, because I'm the one usually carrying the spare.

Gerald Crotty: The printed word does have an unfortunate lack of vocal inflection and facial expression. It would be nice if we had punctuation marks to make up for that lack, but we might end up with more "inflection marks" than letter. Perhaps the Alderaani or Corellian written language contains inflection marks?

Jennifer Moore: It's interesting that most of us don't like-being pegged as either JAMs or CMLs. If we say it Changed My Life it comes close to admitting fanatical devotion. If we say it's Just A Movie it seems almost disrespectful. I think if you're here, reading this letterzine, then it must have changed your life to some degree.

There is a Japanese word to describe a type of fiction or animation — *ecchi* (pronounced eh-chē) meaning "mild lechery". I think we might find it useful to describe some types of adult fan fiction.

The Vader vs. Energizer Bunny commercial just about blew my mind! Their recreation of the carbon-freeze chamber was astounding. Call me a sick puppy if you like, but I wouldn't mind having a complete set of Energizer Bunny commercials.

One last thing... Matthew Whitney, please come home! I miss you!

Ditto, Catriona Campbell!

I don't want to set the world on fire, I just want to light a flame in your heart...

## NOT GAFIATED

Matthew Whitney  
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January 29, 1995

I was all set to start an LoC explaining that I was going to "gafiate" for a while and let my SE subscription expire, when a couple factors changed my mind. First, I set about reading the latest issue with a more involved heart, wanting to submit a parting LoC, and found that old SW vigor returning. Life's been complicated for the last couple of years, and the luxury of fandom has often been shifted to

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back burners. When I have had time for fannish activities, it's often been other genres (such as B7) that I've found my personal fires burning. As much as I remain a SW fan to the core, for a long while the intensity has not been urgent. But seriously contemplating cutting my "official" tie has actually rejuvenated my love of the Saga.

The second factor is the "apparent" real possibility that there will be new films quite soon, and I want to be a part of that! Since the late-80's I've been totally convinced that Lucas had finished all the SW films he'd ever make. The every so often excitement that LFL was going into pre-production, only to be disappointed *every* time left me jaded (but never bitter). At least the trilogy was complete and I'd loved each episode. But, I do think the murmurings, rumors, and announcements we've been hearing of late are the real McCoy. If nothing else, I'm virtually certain the special edition of SW/ANH is for real, and that delights me to no end. We've been pleading for that since we learned of the out-takes of Biggs and Jabba. Are we setting ourselves up for another fall? Perhaps, but my reason for believing these announcements after several years of skepticism is that IMO LFL is taking a lesson from Paramount. Seeing the huge profits they're making off their ST cash cow, I think George is finally willing to stake the mega-millions the films will take to produce, confident he'll be able to make it back. Cold, bottom-line thinking, but when the issue involves more money than we can possibly ever dream of, I cannot find fault.

So, let me shift gears to discuss pro- v. fan-writing. "Pro-fiction" is not a dirty word in my book. I agree with many that there is fan stuff that is infinitely better, but there's still some quality pro-stuff out there. Fan writing (and art) is the product of love, and that warms the heart even when the end product is less than hoped for. As a sometimes fanfic writer myself, I have known some of my pieces didn't entirely work or at least should've been improved, and have been relieved that most will read my meager efforts with a generous eye. And always when I read others' stuff, I think of the author/artist as a kindred spirit. But not all the pro authors are uncaring hacks, or so I hope. We know many arose from fannish ranks. When a pro-novel is a dog, tho', I fear we too quickly toss them off as just in it for the buck because they received a paycheck.

If a pro-novel sells, at least it helps to keep the genre live. Guarantee, if the new SW products were not selling, there'd be no talk of new films. What have I bought/read lately? A fair question, and the answer is almost nothing. Blame it on being overwhelmed several years back by the flood of ST novels. The only way I could ever hope to keep up would be to stop reading any other subject. (Alas, the same goes for most fanlit, as well.) Being too much a fan of Shakespeare, and many great current pro-writers, I

was unwilling to do that. So, I've purposely avoided most ST/SW novels, with rare exceptions.

My only major SW purchase in years has been the boxed set of 4-CD soundtracks. That is a superb item, and I recommend it to everyone with absolutely no qualifications. Anyone without them can hardly say they have even the soundtrack of ANH, what with all the additional tracks available here. As for other stuff, I've gotten one trilogy of books and a couple of comix series.

Marti Schuller: In SE40 you said you believe that the Emperor/Vader considered Yoda a myth: I like it! Maybe there were no Jedi academies, but instead all training was one-on-one, secret, and so on. Only those Jedi trained by Yoda would know where to find him (w/ new students brought by former pupils). Reason: to insure the order would survive if one/many succumbed to the Dark Side. In effect, a quarantine. If a Jedi turned to the Dark and "took out" others, there would still be pockets of Light Siders. Perhaps the upheaval we see in the films is but one of a number of Dark Ages/Renaissance transitional periods of the order?

Also Marti's topic: When did Vader see the Emperor to be evil? Definitely before "It is too late for me." He'd been plotting against the Emp as far back as TESB ("Join me and we will rule the galaxy..."). I think Vader is sincere in that offer to Luke, and that he was not using it as a ploy and planning to turn him over to the Emp later. (Something I addressed in a story of nearly a decade ago. Ouch! Age creeping up on me.) But, evil doers will often betray one another without seeing each other as evil. Further, I think all evil doers do not even see themselves as evil.

Example: Tarkin. In his eyes, the destruction of Alderaan was necessary for the good of the galaxy, preserving order and civilization from those anarchistic rebels. Like a surgeon cutting away diseased flesh to save the body. So, the question remains, when did Vader first see the Emp as evil, leading him to lamenting to Luke that it was "too late?" I say it begins with his mind link with Luke at the end of TESB, when Luke is lying nearly delirious in the bay of the *Falcon*. When Vader looks into his son's mind, some of Luke flows across, and maybe for a fleeting moment Darth sees the world through Luke's eyes. In that brief exchange, he may have felt an echo of the good man he once was, and starts to see all he's lost, and then the evil of the Empire and Emperor.

A. G. Steyn: Re the timeline of the Saga, I'd toss out the original indications of Luke being 18/20 and Leia aged 16 on the basis that no one then involved with SW ever knew it'd be the financial hit it was, leading to a series of films. Lucas structured it to evoke the format and excitement of serials, with preceding events and a cliffhanger ending, but the last thing on his mind was the complexity of a timeline that most filmgoers wouldn't give half a thought to. He

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was probably still debating the plot element of the two being siblings, so the disparity of the ages of Luke and Leia I rate as a non-issue.

That the prequels are to be set 40, rather than 20 years earlier does pose a problem. Ben's comment that a "young Jedi named Darth Vader" killed Luke's father will be a formidable logic problem, especially for the placement of the twins' birth, as your LoC pointed at. Too early and that throws out Luke and Leia being about 20 in ANH. If the prequels begin 40 years before ANH and then progress over a decade or so, how will that tie in with Ben's statement that Vader was a pupil of his until he turned to evil? As you say, did Anakin father the children or had he become Vader at that point? Allow me to propose a way out theory: the children are conceived and then removed from the womb of their mother for a duration, replaced a decade later by some "Clone" technology, allowed to continue their maturation, and were born some number of years after conception — meant to be the last of hope of the Jedi.

Branching off to discuss another genre for a moment, reactions to ST: *Voyager*? I've loved the first two episodes. I've heard some griping over the blatant politically correct feel of the crew make-up, but those folk are missing the boat. These are great characters! This show has all the makings of a show I'm really going to get involved in (rather than watch to pass time).

Mary Jo Fox: Re the difference between SW & ST: I see it as SW looks back and inside for mythic roots, while ST looks out and forward to the future/new possibilities. That's how I approach each, thus why I feel they both fulfill different needs.

Here's a gripe about language in SF/F stories (media, not just fan stuff): the use of dull descriptions such as "first meal" for breakfast. Such stiff expressions sound like recitations from Webster's, rather than language. Yeah, I know the writer is trying to convey that an alien species has a completely different word for our common expressions, so are giving a sort of universal translation, but whenever I come across such examples I am really knocked out of the plot. This fits into the discussion of using various "profane" expressions, when the new culture created would have no knowledge of those terms. My problem is that a truly alien culture wouldn't understand a single word we'd use (no matter what Earth language was used), so allowing them to use our language for pages-upon-pages, and then to trip over something like "breakfast" is ludicrous. The opposite extreme of loading up the story with alphabet soup words, heavy on z's and triple consonants, is just as bad — or worse. Good writing is a fine line.

Until next issue . . . MTFBWY!

## PEGGY SUE RETURNS

Susan Zahn  
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Hiddy-ho! That deadline for #40 came and went before I had a chance to get an answer out to you. For anyone who hasn't heard the news yet, I finally got a job out here in Maryland. In fact, it's better than anything I'd hoped to find, so I'm quite ecstatic. The only thing that sucks is that it took soooo long to find, that I'm now firmly in debt, thank you, Discover Card. I guess it takes a little sacrifice to gain a little more. So ist das Leben.

Z. P. Florian: So when am I going to see you, woman! I'm right next door now. Guess I'll have to stop by for a cup of sugar or something, huh?

One question: Where the heck do you get all that time/energy/inspiration to do all that?!

Marti Schuller: I really enjoyed your story, "Her Ladyship", in *Tremor* 8. Even though I know where your heart lies fan-wise, I've always enjoyed your Han & Leia pieces. I strongly believe that Leia began her political career in this fashion; learning from the experiences of an older mentor would be far more valuable than all the lectures in some classroom. She would also be an excellent teacher for the next generation. The story was emotional without becoming melodramatic. I especially liked the fact that you gave our favorite trio a successful future by way of Leia's reflections on the past. Lately, it seems rare that they are given any kind of hopeful future after the war, which I find depressing at times. Granted, I'm a sucker for a happy ending. It was probably my favorite piece in the zine, because I'm especially prone to a good Leia story, which can be even more rare. Let's see some more.

You will be attending MediaWest this year, right? We'll have to get together in the bar again, since it seems to be one of the few places where one can get away from the hustle and relax for a while.

The motley, moldering Dead Bothans: I'm still working on the pledge, but I do have a couple of possibilities for the anthem. Now, if I were talented, I'd draw up a membership card, too. Liz?

Had a great time at Planet Hollywood during our D.B. Society meeting. I must protest, however, the breech of protocol in not reading the minutes from our last meeting. And if our dearly departed Head Dead Bothan would kindly remember to bring along her ode to the Dead Bothans (a.k.a. Oh Bothan, My Bothan), we could begin our meetings with the proper amount of revulsion — I mean, respect, due our unique society. Thank you.

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Debbie Kittle: Thanks for letting me tag along on your shopping — or should I say plundering trips to Another Universe, etc. I'm not sure about how grateful I should be considering it's costing me a fortune, but it sure is fun! Sigh. At least I'm not a student anymore as all this SW stuff floods the market. It's hard enough to turn down *half* of it, let alone everything! Oh well, keep an eye out for one of those pewter Han Solo's, huh?

A. G. Steyn: Ob dieses brief auf Deutsch ist, ist nicht so wichtig, aber ich kann immer üben. (Naja, kann ich nicht buchstabieren!) Natürlich kann ich besser sprechen als schreiben, aber ich habe schon so viele vorgessen. Gibt es eine Chance, daß wir in Lansing treffen werden? MediaWest macht viel Spass!! Hoeffenlich, bis dann. (English = My German sucks asteroids!)

Belea T. Keeney: Welcome to SE and the rest of your life! Active fandom can tend to take over, but who cares! It's fun!

If you'd really like a peek into SW fandom's past, check out the old newsletter *Jundland Wastes*. I know that's easy for me to say, since I managed to find the entire set in excellent condition for about \$10 (Oh, for the days when fans were dumping their collections dirt cheap!). I'd suggest getting in contact with Ming Wathne at the Corellian Archives (see the last page of this issue). She probably has the entire set in her collection. If not, drop a note to me and I'll see what I can do. The newsletter will give you a good idea of the kind of nail-biting, hair-pulling and name-calling that went on between the fans and Lucasfilm, and between the fans themselves. (To think that the two versions of *Slow Boat to Bespin* helped to spark off SexWars here in the U.S. They're rather tame by today's standards.)

Right-on about Lucas' demonstrated attitude towards the middle-saga. Frankly, I can't get all excited about if/when/what he plans for the next three films. If the "pro" novels are any indication of his creative bent, I'll stick to our fandom where the bottom line isn't the most important factor. I believe Lucas is the origin of most of the false rumors that have been flying for the past 10 years, with the sole intention of selling toys and preventing those outside of active fandom from entirely forgetting about his little project. It seems as if he changes his mind from day to day; last I heard, he isn't even sure if he'll indeed do the first trilogy next. I know what I like so I'm sticking with Han/Leia/Luke; they're part of what fascinated me in the first place. Things like *Tales from the Jedi* leave me unmoved, mostly because they don't involve the people I've come to care about, but also partially because they don't resemble the films in any other way.

Oh, the image of Dr. Lillith Stermon-Crane leading a group therapy for Leia, Ripley and Sarah Connor is precious! I think Marion Ravenwood could sit in as well.

Pat Grant: It's great to see your name in the "other side" of fandom. For some reason, few fans seem able or willing to bridge that gap between roleplay and zinedom. I suspect it's a finite amount of creative energy. At least, that's my excuse. Because the Muses are infrequent visitors to my door, I must direct the majority of my fannish time towards my "regular" story writing. It doesn't leave much time for keeping up with all the scandals and tribulations of As The F.O.E. Universe Turns.

Rest assured, I do intend to get some roleplay in this year at the con, although I'll have to limit myself to Peggy Sue Death-Hawk (yes, she back in the pink!). Believe me, she's enough!

I fully agree with you and Jacqueline Taero on whether or not the New Republic is the way to go, and if the Jedi should be made sooo important again. I tend to think that the events in Germany during the first half of this century were the main source of inspiration for Lucas' storyline, so I'm going to use an example to explain this argument.

To be brief, the Weimar (read Old) Republic was an ineffectual and corrupt government which proved unable to prevent the National Socialist takeover. Why would anyone, following the Nazi (read Imperial) regime, want to reestablish an obviously failed system? Furthermore, who ever heard of a new government being backed up by one single policeman (read Jedi)? According to the books, poor Leia could give birth to multiple sets of quintuplets, dump them *all* off at Winter's Day Care, and the toddlers *still* wouldn't be able to keep the riff-raff under control. Luke clearly isn't up to the task, and Lando wouldn't know a Force Talent if it bit him. It's quite obvious that good ol' Han is our only hope, and we all know how the "pro" novels are treating him (*Truce* excluded); he isn't much more than a bumbling stud for future Jedi. (You know, it's a wonder these people won the war in the first place.)

In short, the New Republic would have to *learn* to survive without the Jedi, since it's going to take forever for enough Force Talents to be assembled and trained, thus the question is academic (every pun intended). If the Jedi are *that* important, the new government would be long gone by the time the Jedi could be effective. The universe certainly isn't going to stand around and wait while the Jedi reassemble. Besides, why even bother introducing a problematic element (read Jedi) into the system if they weren't able to stop the Emperors' rise to power in the first place. Maybe the answer is to come up with a better system of security and power-checks. Luke would have to get a life, enter a government job training program and learn to flip bantha burgers. (Luke fans, please don't be offended by my curtness; I'm just trying to make the point that things change.)

Re: the Cantina. I'd love to provide the music for the dance again this year. I've got a few more good songs, but

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lost a couple along the way. Let me know if you're game, and I'll send you a list of some songs I think would be good but don't have access to myself. Then maybe you could place a note in F.O.E.'s newsletter for volunteers. Will Joe be the D.J. again? Do you know if he'll have the same stereo set-up?

Is Chewie male? Damned straight! He's the sexiest one I know!

Louise Turner: I borrowed a copy of *Bad Feeling* from Dead Bothan Debbie K. and I think you did a great job, especially for a first effort (right?). In fact, I wouldn't mind it a bit if you forwarded a flier w/ prices and such. More power to you.

That's a fantastic twist for a story, your idea about Bail Organa (or better yet, someone else within the Royal House) arranging to hand over Leia to the Imperials. Hint hint, nudge nudge, say no more.

As for whether Rebels and Imperials would socialize, I can once again cite from history. The most documented case, of course, was in the trenches of France during Christmas of 1914; photos even exist of those few days when German and British troops met in No-Man's Land, sang songs and even exchanged gifts. There have been many other first-hand accounts throughout both World Wars, but they weren't officially reported, and they certainly weren't used for propaganda reasons, unlike that time at the beginning of the First World War. The governments and military command felt that such occurrences weakened the men's will to fight, and so forbid that kind of fraternization. When met face-to-face with the enemy, however, many young men realized that political theories and moralistic differences didn't really matter on the battlefield; instead, they saw a fellow kid whose only passion was to go home to his family. I don't see how those fighting in the SW universe would be any different. Aside from the usual element of fanatics and political party members, all any of them would want is an end to the war.

(As a side note, if anyone's interested in finding out more about personal accounts of the Second World War, I strongly suggest reading *The Good War* by Studs Terkel. It's an oral history of that time, from around the world and from all sides of the conflict.)

Oh, and thanks for the N.R.T.T. I cringe every time I see or hear criticism towards T. Zahn, only because I fear someone may get us confused.

Carolyn Golledge: Just wait 'til you read what I've got cooking now. It's pushing 80 pages — someone help me!!!

Congrats on breaking through to the other side. Knew you'd do it.

Ming Wathne: I stand corrected, and agree with you completely. Let's just say that that's what I intended to say, but didn't say. Okay?

Tim Blaes: Good point, about SW needing both good

characters *and* SF. I just feel that the characters we got to know in the films are not progressing in the pro-novels. If anything, they're regressing (re: Wolverton's reason for dumbing down Han Solo was to make him like the Han Solo of *Star Wars* — I think he's wrong in both intent and result) or have simply changed with no explanation. Whether these stories had been written by unpaid fans or not wouldn't have changed my opinion about the quality of the books. Perhaps I wouldn't be so vocal, but on the other hand I resent being told that these stories are "official canon." How could anyone claim to have an inside track to the truth, when Lucas himself doesn't know?

Oh, and I had to laugh at your statement to Brian Harris about the MediaWest "stag" room being short one member. I won't ask which one. (Hey, I'd have to lift my head to get my mind out of the gutter!)

I agree. I think it'd be great — and probably quite an adventure! — if Carrie Fisher wrote a SW pro-novel. On the other hand, Lucas is such a prude that she'd probably have to tone her humor down to the point that it'd come out flat. After all, there's only so much creativity one can put into a paint-by-numbers story. Who knows? I'd still give her the benefit of a doubt.

Gerald Crotty: Congrats on the STAR aWARD. You deserved it!

I second your comments on the Luke/Leia scene in ROTJ. The scene is still one of my favorites in the film (granted, that's not saying much) but it still leaves a lot to be desired. My solution is to simply fill in the gaps, i.e. immediately following Han and Leia's embrace. Actually, I've written the scene twice already, and I still have some ideas left over. I believe Leia does tend to internalize, and she might have gone into some sort of temporary denial, but yes, there should have been *something*. I rationalize that she simply hasn't made the connection yet. She's still absorbing the idea that Vader is *Luke's* father, and hasn't gotten around yet to tracing the family tree once she learns that she and Luke are siblings. That, or she figures that she's a lost cause already, where as Luke is still their "Last Hope", thus explaining her immediate concern for him above herself. Think about it: Leia's comment about her inability to have the power that he does is very self-defeatist (read unlike Leia), so one could even reason that she's not quite herself in the first place.

As for male/female writing partnerships, sorry, but I can't think of a single example in my collection. I think it'd be an interesting collaboration.

I guess it's arguable whether or not the Emporer knows about Yoda, but I think Vader does not. In TESB, Vader said to Luke: "Obi Wan has trained you well." One could reason that Vader took Kenobi's old threat ("stronger than you could possibly imagine") to heart and believed that Kenobi continued Luke's training even though the Jedi was

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dead. He has no idea that Yoda took over Luke's training, right?

Mary Jo Fox: Hello fellow Leia fan and Dead Bothan! Yes, it is tragic to think that there was anti-Leia propaganda right from the start. You're probably right about the motives, but I think a good dose of jealousy is also to blame. After all, only Leia gets to run around the universe hobnobbing with the influential, kiss Han (and some would argue Luke — heh heh) and generally have a good time, although she might argue with that. Some handle this by either trashing Leia or simply avoiding her completely. I personally put myself in her place :-]

As for the pro novels, unfortunately we have clashed on this. I'll admit, you're right; were these stories written by unpaid fans making an honest effort to express their vision of the SW universe, I probably wouldn't be so verbal with my opinions out of mutual respect. On the other hand, I resent being told that these stories are "canon" and that mine are a waste of time and effort. No fan would be so rude. If these "pro" authors lack the courtesy to respect their fellow writers and reading audience (keep in mind who kept SW alive all this time so that they'd have something to sell today), I hardly think it's fair to *demand* respect in return. That's not how respect works. I do have a lot of respect for Kathy Tyers, and it's not just because I thought hers was the best effort to date on the mass market. She has demonstrated an understanding of how fandom works and does anything *but* mock it. Ask Carolyn Golledge. Finally, even if these other stories had been produced by one of my favorite fan writers, I *still* wouldn't have liked most of them. I do have the right to *not* like something, just as much as one has the right to enjoy something else. I could go into a long list of reasons for why I was unable to suspend my disbelief while trying to read them, but this letter's long enough already. I just want you to know that I don't feel that my criticism is too harsh or negative — I gave every one of the books a fair shot (I myself was verbally attacked for saying that I found one or two moments in entertaining, so perhaps I'm more sensitive to this type of thing than most!) and I'll admit that each book does have some redeeming qualities, but overall, aside from *Truce*, they didn't stir or inspire me. It happens all the time in fandom too.

Had to laugh at your "Han's a Doritos man!" That's too true sometimes, but I like to think I'm not *that* bad. And I also agree with your view on SW needing the humor as much as the darker emotions and the action. Even though I still follow the *Dark Empire* comics, every one of them has eerie green light shooting from their eyes, even when they're looking through hooded eyes, which is most of the time. Which film was that? Doesn't the sun ever shine since the Empire collapsed?

Well, I'd better wrap this baby up before it gets too out

of hand. To all those I didn't get to address directly, have a great year and I hope to see all of you at MediaWest. Fly Casual!

## WILLING TO CRITICIZE PRO NOVELS

Jacqueline Taero  
State of Chaos  
U.S.A.

Greetings, all.

Mary Jo Fox: I approach the pro novels the same way I approach a fanzine — in good faith, hoping for the best. I thought that one of the pro SW books was terrific, some were merely tolerable, and I threw one across the room in disgust. This is exactly the same as my reaction to fanfic — some garners a shrug and a yawn, some I cherish forever, and some goes crashing against the nearest wall.

As for criticism, I will admit to using a double standard. I'm reluctant to criticize a fan writer who is motivated simply by love of the SW universe. I bloody well *will* criticize a pro writer who has been paid for his or her work (plus taking \$25 out of my pocket) if I cannot recognize the canonical characters and/or find plot holes the size of the Death Star. If that constitutes bias, so be it. I do try to be specific in my criticism and to justify my reactions, detailing the reasons and the basis for them. If someone else loves the same book that I despise — fine. That's what makes horse races.

Z. P. Florian: Whether Darth's fall was caused by the Emperor or was something totally independent of Old Prune Face, there's another question that needs pondering. Who was responsible for the Emperor's slide into Darkness? Was Palpie just a rotten kid who grew up to be a power-mad Force user, or did someone turn him to the Dark Side? If he did have Jedi training, could Palpatine have been Yoda's Darth Vader?

Ming Wathne: Re SW royalty and whether the titles are inherited, earned, or whatever, here's a possibility that's been overlooked — can titles be purchased?

Catherine Churko: I'm not convinced that Yoda tells Ben much of anything, via the Force or otherwise. I have the feeling that Yoda keeps his own counsel and not even Ben really knows what he's thinking.

Gerald Crotty: Good analysis of the Luke/Leia scene in ROTJ. Regarding your other remarks, you're absolutely correct in noting that elements of irony or sarcasm-humor, too, I might add — are frequently missed or misinterpreted by the reader. Er, re your comment to Louise Turner, what do you mean, *yours* is the only opinion that counts? How can this be when I know for a fact that *mine* is the only opinion that counts?! Hmm, before we get jumped on for

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this little exchange, do you think we should tell them that we're only joking? (Even if we have to lie?)

Louise Turner: Naw, ethnic origin has nothing to do with it. Threepio is a pain in the posterior — English, Scots, American, he'd still be a pain in the posterior. It's poor little Artoo who does all the work, gets no credit and no respect.

Carolyn Golledge: I just don't like the idea of Luke and Leia as twins, but I don't think we need to go as far as having one frozen for a few years while the other progressed naturally. We all noticed in TESB that time on Dagobah seems to be out of whack with the rest of the galaxy. The simple explanation is that one twin was on Dagobah and the other wasn't. One aged two years while the other aged two months. It's as good an explanation as any ... but I still don't like it.

Brian Harris: Kenobi "allowed" to go into exile? Okay, but why? Could you go into a bit more detail? I think I have lots of problems with that notion, but I'll give you a chance to explain it before I make up my mind.

A. G. Steyn: Beru as Luke's mother and Darth's erstwhile ladylove ... you know, that works. That would certainly explain her comment about Luke having "too much of his father in him". Who better than she to say so?!

## ANOTHER NEWBIE

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Hi, I'm Minky, another newbie to the SE world. A pleasure to meet all of you, and I want to say "thanks" to everyone who's helped me get acquainted, especially Z. P. and Ming. Ming, thanks for your comments in #40 about shortcuts. Maybe a glossary of acronyms is needed for us neophytes ... IFDM.

Special thanks to Cheree for doing all this.

Louise: Ah, yes, bad boys= romantic heroes. My first love was Adam Cartwright, all dark and broody. Bad boys are so much more challenging than nice guys like Han. Han is a tough, hardy survivor, but only a wee bit wicked; he's not truly Bad. Vader is my romantic hero of the trilogy, though I confess to a lifetime of forays into confused, lost, sensitive blonds (with Bad potential) like Luke, Illya K., Rutger Hauer, James Spader. There's just something about blonds in helpless bondage to their destiny ...

A. G.: Re Luke "groping" Vader's thigh. Untrue. He was merely conducting an extensive tactile reconnaissance for his father's hand because, while hands are traditionally

located at the ends of one's arms, in this particular case (given the preceding events) Luke could not be certain without a meticulous and exhaustive exploration that left no stones unturned. And a damn *fine*, firm thigh it is, too. (Of course, a simpler explanation is that Luke may have hoped that his father would become his Jedi ThighMaster.) As for the timeline, I vote for Anakin being 8 and just beginning Jedi training when the new trilogy starts (remember, Luke was "too old" for Jedi training) and in his 20's for the second and third movies. That would make him 48 and deliciously prime for ANH.

Belea: Vader only looked that way immediately after the mask was removed; in a few more minutes, his face would have sprung back into its fine, firm shape. Unless he accidentally used his Thighmaster on his cheeks instead of on his fine, firm thighs.

Marti: Perhaps Darth didn't go after Obi-Wan because he was (wisely) leery of him. After all, OWK was his Master which implies much higher levels of skills (if not common sense). And OWK had possibly just mutilated him — that would make him less than eager for a second confrontation. Or, alternatively, he had an emotional attachment to OWK that caused his reluctance. As for seeing the Emperor's evil, I agree that Vader knew and accepted that "evil" but IMO his definition of "evil" was probably much different than ours. He was following a powerful, charismatic commander, his teacher of many years. Evil can be subjective and very dependent upon where you're standing. When he saved Luke, he chose to save his son's life more than he rejected Palpatine and evil. Rejecting Palpatine's teachings would have meant concluding that his life's path had been the wrong one, and he didn't do that. Admitting to Luke that there was still good in him wasn't the same as saying he'd chosen the wrong path. I visualize him in Jedi Heaven or wherever, still arguing with Ben and Yoda about the value of the Dark.

Why can't the Alliance survive without Jedi? Because a Jedi said so and Jedi Know Best. So why is it: in the trilogy, no one mourns their disappearance except other Jedi. No one says, "Gee, it'd sure be nice to have a Jedi around right about now" or "Gosh, wish we'd done something to prevent that darn massacre". No one asks Luke about Jedi or comments on his lightsaber. The only Jedi references made are to sorcery, ancient/hokey religions, conjure, etc. Those are words of fear, not respect. If the Rebel Alliance really needed/wanted the Jedi, they would have cherished/protected the last one and not risked him as a fighter pilot or sent him off on the Forest Moon caper. Ben's description of Jedi Knights as peacekeepers for the galaxy smacks of *The Day the Earth Stood Still* and its platoons of roving, robotic Klaatu killer cops. Maybe Ben and Yoda were in hiding not from the Emperor but rather from the irate peoples of the galaxy —

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the same people who stood by and watched the rest of the Jedi slaughtered. Perhaps the disappearance of the Jedi was a great relief to more than just the proponents of Darkness.

Bye for now, and thanks for letting me come and play with you!

## WHAT IS A DROID?

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January 11, 1995

Happy New Year!

First things first:

The Winter 94 edition of SE arrived here yesterday, and I was pleased to learn from it that Randy has found a new job. Congratulations. What a fantastic way to start a new year!

SE brought a lot of laughs this time around. The cartoon "One Big Happy" is a riot. It reminds me so much of my Granny... she was exactly like that. The SW drinking game had me in stitches. Just my kind of humor. Hey, in case a con hotel is too small for a good blaster battle, this game might be just what it takes to save the day. So we all might be well advised to keep the rules handy.

Keeping eyes and ears open (sometimes it's hard to do that, tho'... especially reading some of those official, GL sanctioned SW novels), I tend to find bunches of things with an ever so slight SW flavor in daily life. Songs, for instance (from Tom T. Hall's "May The Force Be With You, Always", and Weird Al Yankovich's "Yoda", to an old surfing tune called "The Wedge" — which of course has nothing to do with the guy in orange, but anyway..., to insane Peter Seller's "Goodness, Gracious Me!" and "Interview with Sir Eric Goodness". Then there are names that keep cropping up in newspapers, warehouse catalogs, magazines... I found an item in a furniture catalog (Swedish company "Ikea") that is called "Dodonna" (!) and in our local paper I ran across a note on a scientific discovery somewhere in the Himalayan region, if I remember this right, mentioning the Sullustans. What's this galaxy coming to? Even reading a book on the meaning behind popular names made me chuckle. "Mark" ... from "Marcus" = little war-like-one/little warrior. Ahem!

Am I the only one having these "problems"??? Should I seek professional help?

My last LoC:

This timeline bit... I re-thought and re-worked my concept a bit and am now in the midst of compiling a SW calender of events (birthdays of all characters, who when where at what time, etc.). It's coming along nicely, and so far the only person I had a bit of trouble with is blasted Biggs — of all persons. But that calender is of course only my conception of the proceedings, and I do freely admit that I decided to ignore some tiny bits and pieces fed to us by Lucas and other "officials" that are somewhat contradictory.

Yeah, those official books on the saga... Isn't it bizarre that we (amateur writers, editors, publishers) go through great lengths in trying to establish plausible plotlines and being imaginative and original, when on the other hand professional writers get away with murder? Snooping through the novelization of the SW movies two things immediately jumped at me like a Cholla cactus: Obi-Wan's reference to a *duck* ("Even a duck has to learn how to swim...") and the mention of "a *dog* barking in the distance" when Luke drives into Anchorhead. That falls into the same line as the Immelmann I mentioned in my last letter. Blah!

And I'm more than happy that Hollywood meanwhile decided against Julia Roberts as HF's love interest in the *Sabrina* remake.

Anyone seen this strange interview with Patrick Stewart on Jay Leno's *Tonight Show*? Where he kept yakking about a crossover STTNG / SW and about Leia being the only woman in the galaxy Captain Picard might consider worth marrying ... and about Picard not having had a real love affair in all these years and Han (according to the *Courtship* book) always being absent anyway... Topping this all off by stating that he had talked to Harrison (!) about this and that he (and Carrie) would be willing to do this menage-a-trois...

It is, however, possible that Mr. Stewart had had one drink too many that night!!!

Other people's LoCs:

Marti Schuller: Huh? Obi-Wan alone in the desert?? Hm, why do you think he took up teaching nice, innocent and still very young men (like Anakin and Luke) the ways of the Force? The man was a closet pedophilic! (OUW! OUCH! AH! Stop.. Time out! Quit throwing your household after me... I was just kiddin'. Geez, can't you people take a joke?)

Debbie Kittle: Dear dead Bothan. If you want winter, please come over and join me here in my office. Our heater system is being repaired momentarily and the powerlines are overloaded, so for one week I've been sitting in an icy room (outside temps: 20 to 32°F; inside temps: 50°F at the max.) and experiencing one power failure after another (computer, fax, phone, coffee machine... everything deader than even the deadest of

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Bothans). One more day of this and I call in sick!!

Belea Keeney: Welcome to the LoC side of the Force. Cameo roles for HF, CF, MH?? Don't I wish. I had this secret dream that GL would use them in small lead-ins for the new episodes. Like: Either one (or all three, preferably) nosing through ancient files in some central archive, trying to investigate about their own ancestors. Altho' after all that happened, Luke and Leia may be less than eager to find out more about any possible additional unexpected relationships. It would be understandable. ("Hang on to your earmuffs, sis ... I just discovered that our mother was Jabba the Hutt!")

Louise Turner: Thanks for leaving me the Corellian. You may amuse yourself with the squad now. But... what've you got planned for the rest of the day? In case you run out of flyboys before the clock strikes high noon, you can always desert the Rebs and try out the Imps. This galaxy has fortunately only a severe shortage of she-folks. Aren't we in luck?

About Wedgie... Did you see that interview in the latest installment of the Lucasfilm zine? GL token survivor, huh?

Reading this official zine I notice that more and more interviews with secondary characters keep coming up, and they all somehow (some straight out, some between the lines) let it shine through that they would not mind doing their roles once more. Jeremy Bulloch would *love* to be Boba again. Denis Lawson is not above doing another "Tour of Duty" in the Rebellion. So I ask you, Georgie-baby: Even if the three leading stars are no longer willing to do another SW installment, wouldn't a sequel with some of the former secondary characters be better than a prequel with complete unknowns?? I'd rather watch the adventures of the "real" Boba and Wedge than those of the "wrong" Luke, Han, Leia, Ben and Darthie. Sorry, but that's the way the *Falcon* crumbles...

Ming Wathne: The Force is with thee, oh great keeper of the grail (i.e. Corellian Archieves).

What is a droid? Hm, if you take the scientific approach then droid, being an abbreviation of android, is a mechanical man — a robot that resembles a human. Lt. Cmdr. Data of STTNG would be the classic example. Threepio could possibly be counted in, as he is of humanoid shape and functions in many ways like a human being. R2, on the other hand, would be just a "simple" robot. However, in the movies, he's referred to as a droid. So, in the SW universe a droid seems to be any mechanical contraption that moves independently, has at least a — however limited — intelligence, and can "verbally" communicate with other droids, computers and also living things. The threadwell is a "droid", the vaporators are not. 2-IB and the mousederal are droids, binary load-lifters are not. Vader, tho' more machine than man, doesn't qualify as

a droid, even if he can move independently, communicate verbally and does have brains. He has the Force, droids don't.

And no, carbonated spacers are stationary and therefore not droids, even if they have the basic intelligence and stubbornness of an R2-unit.

Upon the line of writers that never watched the movies: I recently stumbled upon a toy catalog that offered SW models. The descriptions about the TIE Interceptor are a *riot*. The person who came up with them must be the sole soul on this planet that up to now has never seen any of the three movies nor read anything on them. I'll see if I can find that page and translate it. You will roll on the floor, guaranteed!

Fan pics? An 8 x 10 of *moi*? C'mon, lady. You know me. You know what I look like. What do you want an 8 x 10 of mine for? To scare kids that refuse to go to bed? But actually, the idea isn't half bad. I wouldn't mind seeing all those folks I up to now only know by name.

Tim Blaes: Since the Force "can have a strong influence on the weak minded", mind-bending lawyers, TV execs and politicians should be a cinch. A thimbleful of the Force will be sufficient. If you find out more about the "Go Sith" Do-It-Yourself home studying course, let me know where I can order it. With "Uncle Palpie" and "Uncle Addie" (Germans ought to know who *that* is) gone the way of the T-Rex, it's high time that this galaxy gets some new "rnanagers". You take North America, I take Europe... (sorry, Fiorenzo — I plumb forgot that you plan on joining us here on the unwashed side of the Force).

And a SW novel by everybody's fave princess is just what I hope for. Another project for our home-studying course: let's mindbend Carrie Fisher. Altho' it might not work. The woman is no lawyer. She has brains.

OK, that shall be it for this time. Still have to put the finishing touches on another story (someone out there will be so unlucky as to receive it "soon"). That is, in January '95). Till next time I'm frostbittenly yours...

## ORGY OF AGREEING

Z. P. Florian  
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Hi, people. First of all, thanks for Maggie's detailed, fascinating, enlightnening summary of the past — good to know that anything we can argue about had already been argued to death in the glorious past of the fandom! So let's not argue — just enjoy. Ok, ok, arguing is also enjoyable.

But right now, I will engage in an orgy of agreeing! I agree with:

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Mayers: It is disturbing that fans would take the pro novels as canon. Lucas himself said that nothing is canon but what we had seen in the movies.

Schuller: I like the idea of Luke finding strong ties with his students, and then he won't necessarily need family. And when are you going to write a story about Kenobi's desert companion? A lovely lady Jawa perhaps. Who knows what's under the Jawa's hood? (Only Bentrup ... ) Or maybe he had Anakin's wife hidden away somewhere. Leia said, "she died when I was very young" — but that was about the same info Luke had of his father, who was very much alive! Maybe she was on Tatooine in hiding, watching over her son...

I love the Energizer bunny commercial!

Steyn: Yeah, arrgghhh... The Sturm und Drang thing turned me off the pro novels. What silliness. Why invent alien creatures and then give them Earth names? If it is a spoof, ok, but not in something we are supposed to take seriously. As for the fascinating bit of gossip about Han's short (was it me?) girlfriend, who was supposed to be a cross between a guinea pig and a dog... A space schweinhundess! Gods, I wish Lucas had kept the idea. Maybe we nasty-minded fan authors are more true to his original ideas than he, himself?

Keeney: Thanks for saying I have the experience and background to know what's good for me in fandom, but I think you overestimate me. My head and several brick walls could testify... However, it is absolutely true that Lucas sells his universe (let him say that anything a fan does desecrates the sandbox after the Energizer bunny!!!) and fan writers do it for love.

Grant: Well said about Ben's intentions. I also agree with you on the Han/Luke slash; it is very hard to imagine that both of them suddenly drop Leia and start to be frantic about each other. But — if someone can write a story that'd make me believe it, I won't reject it at all. For example, deep psychology: Leia dies and the two men transfer their affection for her to each other, in the desperate pit of grief. Re: donations, I would love to donate a copy of my zine, but hey, I'm not sure you'd want it!

Churko: Loved your musings on what Ben, Yoda, Luke could do with futuresight: don't just muse, write it! I think Ben was a diplomat/teacher, while Yoda was basically a philosopher/guru, and Luke was a warrior/prophet type. Anakin was probably a warrior/lord and the Emperor a conqueror/guru. The events proved that Luke's insight was definitely the best among them, so perhaps he had a strong Forcegift to see the future and feel the emotions of others, while Kenobi was off with a mile. Vader was *not* more machine than man ... and it was Vader who had felt Kenobi's presence, not vice versa. Kenobi didn't even feel Leia being on the Death Star. And Yoda

didn't go off to kill Vader, although he had tons of Force: why? Couldn't Yoda face even the Emperor himself? With Yoda and Ben joining forces, why on Earth would they think that an untrained kid was their only hope? Maybe Luke was potentially a gadzillion times better Jedi than the two of them put together.

Golledge: Please, please, write a story about Han smuggling contraceptives. As for "hell" and "damn", and all those fancy curses ... Read *Tremor* yet? Chewie with the translator? Good, huh? Inventing "alien" curse words can be fun, but I don't believe in covering up perfectly good bad words all the time ... besides, whenever I see something like Han saying "Get those kruppin' boots out of my way!", I feel it's a lot worse than just letting him say "damn boots". It's like a porn picture of a naked girl with black squares placed on strategic points.

Wathne: Of course, outright porn should be confined to separate zines. As you say, at 20 bucks a shot, one has the right to know what is between the covers. Perhaps with a couple of adult zines around, the regular ones will be even cleaner, as the risky stories will have their own home. Besides, there is a new crop of fans, and they are *very* young; just among the kids I carpool around there are two 13 year olds just getting into fanzines. God forbid they start with Friskies. (I gave them *Tremor* to look at. They thought it was "cool".)

Blaes: Ok, you can be Czar of North America, if you really promise to kill all the lawyers and make NBC executives write down "We shouldn't have canceled Star Trek" one million times. I absolutely agree, by the way, that excessive use of mindcontrol backfires on the user, so be careful with using the Force on the NBC guys. And another thing: when you Force Lucas to do the first three movies, make sure he puts in Alan Patronis and Arandu. Maybe a Zornom?

Crotty: British, eh? "It is just as easy being rude while being polite." Nothing is as gratifying as being perfectly polite while delivering an insult. And so beautifully British. All Hungarians are in awe of the British for being able to do this, did you know that? And man, you can draw! That short-hair Luke in *Tremor*...

Mary Jo Fox: Thanks for the info on the releases. I can hardly wait to see Hambly's!!! She is really grand when it comes to suffering wizards (ah, Antryg Windrose... if anyone haven't read *The Silent Tower* trilogy, go get it now... ) and I am sure she'll do something good for Luke. (She said she loves SW!) Wanna bet: in her book, Luke volunteers to absorb the escaped spirit of the Emperor and then starts eating ysalamiris to make sure that Palpie can't use the Force inside him. Of course the whole process is slowly destroying Luke — very, very slowly.

Yuenger: I liked *Truce* and I liked most of *Courtship* (except the Rancors). Feel better?

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To all: anyone had the chance to play Gabriel Knight on CD ROM? How was Hamill in it? I would've given him Gabriel's voice, not to Tim Curry. I have no CD ROM, so I don't know how the voices turned out. (Darn good game anyhow, especially for those who like tousled blonds.) And who had heard of this other game where Hamill is actually acting?

## WHIPPING BOY

Brian Harris  
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January 12, 1995

Greetings, and a great new year to everyone! Hope the holiday season was a safe and joyous one, and the resolution process is relatively painless. This new year is my personal tabula rasa, and as for 1994 ... good riddance and angst for the memories. But enough of all that; it's knowing that you folks are out there that helps me to maintain some semblance of sanity. So, as they say in the sticks, "let's commence to meetin'!"

Nora Mayers: Granted, Wolverton's treatment of the Saga (not *our* Saga, not Lucas' Saga, but *The Saga*) left a really sour taste in my mouth, compared to what others have done thus far. Like Foster's *Splinter, Courtship* is sort of one of those oddball, apocryphal chapters in the continuing adventures of Luke Skywalker. Did Han Solo's turn to be the whipping boy rather ungraciously fall into Dave Wolverton's laptop? No, I wasn't totally happy with the novel, but I bought it, I read it, I can accept it. Even the points that make you and me ill, blasé, blasé, blah.

But this division between professional writers and fanfic writers could be looked upon as a screen. Does a publisher really want to take a chance on an unknown quantity just because a few hundred or so people say they like the author and/or the story? Personally, I give nay damn who's getting paid. If the story gets me involved and keeps me entertained and even makes me think a bit, I don't care if the author is Timothy Zahn, Veronica Wilson, or Uncle Salty living in a PI ward in Butt Necked, Iowa. To me, it is much more satisfying and a lot less constricting than becoming a slave to consumer loyalty. "Art as expression, not as market campaigns."

Pat Grant: Been a while, how are things? You brought up a couple of points I'd like to respond to, the first being the set-up of events in Anderson's trilogy. "If the New Republic is so pitiful, does it deserve to survive?" Did the original thirteen colonies deserve independence from England? Did the original *Star Trek* deserve a third

season?

In response to your response to A. G. Steyn, speculating on the social ties of a rebellion's membership, I would say that the Rebel Alliance was created by its members and supporters because life under the Imperial thumb was becoming a threat to those ties: mates, children, family, friends, not to mention the problems it created on various political, economic and environmental levels. The loners would have done it for a renewed sense of belonging. Certainly a lot of groundwork and discussion would have preceded the formal declaration of a unified intent to oppose Imperial dictate.

Marti Schuller: My condolences and sympathies to you and your family following the loss of your father. May he rest well and live happily in greener pastures. My thoughts go out also to Judith Yuenger. Hope all is going better.

Debbie Kittle: You and your snow! BRRR!! You'd never know it was winter here in Texas. As I write this, it's a pleasant 72 degrees and nary a hint of rain, though naturally that will change in the next five minutes. Cold? Well, cold to a native Texan, anyway. Right now, I hope to make it to MWC. I still haven't heard anything about my gofer membership, which to me is no big deal. Sure, I'll watch some dealers' tables and do a little grunt work, since I'm really not one for costuming (though if Z. P. Florian designed it, I'd probably be convinced to wear it). My concern is, am I gonna have time to noodle around with the guitar(s)? Say, that's a thought ... live entertainment in the cantina! Amanda, are you thinking what I'm thinking?

A. G. Steyn: Definitely in agreement with you on the subject of hardcopies. Viva las printing presses! Reading something with weight and presence and character is one of my all-time heartfelt joys, right up there with listening to vinyl LPs (remember those gatefold sleeves? Pearl Jam even wrote a song about it: "Spin the Black Circle."), taking long walks and cooking in a cast-iron skillet.

Belea Keeney: Hey, welcome! Dip in and enlighten yourself! I've only been involved, more or less, in SW fandom for, what, almost two years, Mary Jo? I tell ya, this whole thing is a real eye opener.

Catherine Churko: Terrific, thought-provoking points you brought up in regards to Jedi farseeing/clairvoyance/psychic reading. Story? The gears are turning...

Louise Turner: Hi there! As always, you bring so much to the way I look at SW, even when we agree to disagree. Brief comments to ya here, longer letter later. Character development through darkness and crisis, *not* gratuitous hurt/comfort for its own sake. Ugh, the very thought makes my stomach crawl.

Rebels and Imperials hanging out together in neutral settings? I'd imagine a few isolated instances, but the term

*Rebel Alliance* pretty much answers that one for me.

The concept of Rebel safeworlds is a plausible one, if said Rebels' family and friends share the same views and/or are in serious trouble with the Empire or some of the nastier elements of fringe society. Probably more often than not, a Rebel's sense of family would come from being part of a closely-knit team, rather than fond memories of kinfolk back home. The sad truth is, esprit de corps and camaraderie are often fleeting social ties which last for the duration of the mission/crisis/holiday outing/what have you. For those who go against the status quo, learning to adapt their every fiber of being to the eventuality of loss of stability and familiarity is a major survival trait.

Darth Vader as Romantic Hero? My, how times have changed. Comments, Vader fan?

Mary Jo Fox: Hi yourself, and bravo!

Amanda Palumbo: You lucky one, you! Asimov... now there's a guy who had a gift for creativatin'!

Tim Blaes: Man, no doubt is it tough getting involved in fandom, and especially being so far away from a big cluster of fellow fans I'd like to meet and hang out with. The fans I *really* click with all live in far removed places with strange and wonderous names. No fair! What, should I move east?

I'll get with you on the room offer later, but I have to ask this question. Does being male at a SW con mean my wings are already clipped? Or just how far east do I have to go?

Quick hello-how-and-where-you-beens to Sue Zahn, Catriona Campbell, Veronica Wilson, Cheryl DeLuca, Jon Snyder, Lynda Boyce, and my bestest friend on the planet, Deana Marie Julian. Okay, so that last one isn't a participating SW fan. Oh, and hi to Pia Rasmussen and Lorrie Cherry. ((Ed: *Jon Snyder, Lynda Boyce, Deana Marie Julian, Pia Rasmussen and Lorrie Cherry don't subscribe to SE — but we'd sure love to see them all join us! How's about working on them, Brian?*)))

See you guys in the spring, and here's one for you. If it looks like a fish, smells like a fish, and tastes like a fish ... it might be prudent to get a second opinion. Peace.



## THE COMPUTER ATE MY LOC!

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February 17, 1995

*Hey, Teach! The computer ate my homework! Gulped my LoC for SE40 right down and didn't even burp so's anyone could notice. Honest. Cheree, can my article count as my continuous appearance in SE (since #4, at least)? ((Ed: *You bet, Maggie! It was completely my fault that your LoC got zapped from the last issue anyway, so technically you had a LoC in, even though it didn't make it to print!))**

Anywho, I guess I'll just combine letters to relieve everyone from having to read too many pages of my ramblings. First, I'd like to compliment everyone on their letters in SE39 and 40. Many potentially difficult subjects were addressed and handled with great finesse! This bodes well for the depth and diversion of our future SW fannish forums. Congratulations, all!

Also, my thanks to everyone for taking my CML/JAM fannish comparison so generously. As everyone noted, we're all a little bit of each and it's all nothing more than a way to look at things from a different angle.

I'm grateful for the thoughtful response to the articles on *Jundland Wastes* as well. It's very difficult to address issues that one was personally involved in — and I'll be curious to see the reaction to Part II, since it includes a more intense level of involvement for me. Even reading it a few years after I wrote it, which was ten years and more after all the controversy happened, the old emotions are still there, waiting to catch fire. I guess all a person can do is try to make clear when she is editorializing; I hope I have done so.

A general throw-out: What if what Han smuggled wasn't either drugs or high-tariffed supplies? Let's think 90s instead of 60s and play with the idea that Han smuggled pirated *merchandise*, or, better yet, pure *intellectual property*, like industrial prototypes and software code? This sort of stuff is happening today all over the world (especially in China) and is a much greyer area of ethics, depending on local social attitudes toward creative properties/rights. Monetarily, the stakes are just as high, and planetary governments could be just as ruthless regarding the losing, or getting, of such data/material.

Second general throw-out: Locally, I'm hearing a growing impatience with the "fragile" Lukes showing up in stories. The argument against these very sensitive, innocent portrayals is that the Luke we saw within the first

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third of ANH was not devastated by the sight, just a few yards away, of his “parents” flesh and bones still sizzling from an unfortunate bar-b-que. Hamill has said that he thought Luke should react violently, but Lucas told him, no, Luke wouldn’t do that. Furthermore, he seems to take to the reality of killing with little outward emotion. Han and Leia might be expected to be inured to the sight of falling bodies; are we going to posit a violent lifetime on Tatooine to explain Luke? Anyone interested in discussing this line of thought?

To the letters...

Debbie Kittle: Good point that Owen might not want to be reminded of Luke’s father by being called Dad himself. Also, the local society could well be one in which fatherhood is not as important as unclehood. There have been a number of earthly societies in which a boy’s father is an inconsequential part of his upbringing, but his mother’s brother is Very Important Indeed. Luke’s obsession with his father could be seen as very strange by a social group that expects his mother’s brother to raise him (and a good story could be written using Luke’s obsession as a marker of his native Force talent, vis à vis the Forceful bond he might have with Anakin/Vader, however deeply buried it might be. Owen could be well aware of this, which is why he keeps the boy from Kenobi. And a parallel could be drawn with Leia’s fierce interest in politics at a young age ... with similar discomfort in that for her adopted parents.)

A. G. Steyn: I remember thinking that Han must have fallen when the doors closed, but mostly have been distracted by the change in that scene from the first times I saw it (I’m one of the folks who saw the “Close the blast doors/Open the blast doors” sequence).

As for the comments on the possible social life of Alliance forces, I’d like to add that although we are more familiar with the stark, Bismarckian models of recent vintage, there have been many varieties of fighting armies in Terran history — armies that travelled with wives and children, as well as armies that provided their own “comfort ladies,” through force or passive acquisition. With the way starships move around in the SW universe, there could be “camp-following family ships” available for R&R. Or pilots who sign on for set periods, could return home for part of the year (American Revolution model).

Tim Blaes: Yes, the better questions is whether fanlit actually work as therapy. (Sometimes it works too well and we lose really good writers as they move to the next step of their development.) I know I can certainly read back through my own work and track the development of ideas and responses that affected my life years ago. And, of course, mere play is a very proper application of writing therapy!

As for Jedi overuse of the Force, I’m of the opinion that

Jedi who get caught up in their powers, or who cling to adolescent bedazzlement by their powers, don’t really last that long. I’ve always imagined a teacher at a Jedi school — standing back from the offending student, or what’s left of the student — one hip cocked, one arm akimbo while the other hand taps a saber against a thigh, an almost irritated look on the face and a sigh in the voice as the words intone, “Lose more Jedi that way.”

Jennifer Moore: Pro developments in the SW universe are going to be a problem whether or not anyone is prejudiced against the pro novels. For a fan like me, the pro books are just cheaper-than-fanzine alternative fanlit. The only developments/characterizations/plottings that I feel I should be expected to know are what’s on the screen.

(Godsheknows, it’s impossible enough to find people who agree on what happened in the movies, even when they were sitting, watching, at the same theater, the very same showing!)

If I start reading fanlit that assumes knowledge of those pro developments, I’m going to be irritated unless the story states up front that it is based on the movies *and* a particular pro novel. And yet, a person cannot deny that the new wave of fans are full of people that consider the novels as much SW as the movies. Who’s to say who’s more accurate in their assessment? We’ve moved into a new world of SW fandom the last few years, just like Trek has. There’s not going to be as much common ground as before.

Nora Mayers: From talking with the “mundane” SW fans that I’ve encountered, least the ones in my office, I’m inclined to believe that many readers of the SW books carry the character presentations of ANH forward into the next two movies, which might explain a pro author’s inclination to present Han in ANH fashion, even after ROTJ. When I get a chance to talk about fannish explorations of the universe (which isn’t often, certainly!), and I bring up various fannish discussions on the characters, I tend to get a “aren’t you all taking this a bit too seriously?” response.

And, she said carefully, remember that we “intense types” differ strongly among ourselves as to the definition and quality of Han’s changes through the movies. There are many among us who prefer the ANH Han and might welcome an author who disregards the changes in the man through TESB and ROTJ.

That said, I’m going to agree with the SE40 suggestion that we quit with all the universal *It’s awful/terrible/rotten* declarations. Just saying “I *hated* it” proves nothing to anybody but yourself and severely limits discussion. As another LoC said, those comments are insulting to both the efforts of another writer and the sensibilities of those who enjoyed the story. Instead, if we really dislike a story, we should describe it as our personal reaction and *explain why*, just as Nora did with the *Courtship* book.

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And, IMO, we should get back to reviewing fan fiction as well. One LoC pointed out that we put up with much worse than the pro fiction in our own zines. If our standards are different for pro and fan fiction, we need to recognize this. If we don't complain about fan fiction because of social courtesies/pressures, we need to acknowledge that reality. More, we need to create once again a dialogue for discussing what we're reading.

(Yes, I know all the old problems of reviewing in fandom. Maybe the reviews could run under a banner that states "*I can dislike your story and like you at the same time.*")

(By the by, thanks, Nora, for the compliment on my writing — ;))

Another thought on the difference between pro and fan — there's a world of difference between writing fanlit, for which your audience knows all the descriptions and conventions of characterization and plot, and writing for a non-fan audience that very likely doesn't remember who knows whom, or what happened where, or any number of other little details that fans like us breathe in and out daily. Fanlit makes an incredible amount of assumptions regarding the reader's familiarity with the characters and the plot.

Blelea Keeney: I'm not aware of any declared time between the movies. Kurtz was asked about that once, but declined to say anything definite. He suggested that we all make our own minds up about it.

Of course, that makes for great diversity! For me, Luke is nowhere near 30 in ROTJ; maybe as much as 25, but I see more like 23, with a year or two between ANH and TESB, and 6 months to a year between TESB and ROTJ.

As for Vader's age, with his cybernetics, why would age mean anything to him? I can visualize Anakin as any number of ages when he switched sides, depending on the rest of the scenario. His looks at the end of ROTJ can be deceptive: I've noticed that once people get past 40 it becomes increasing difficult to make judgements about age as genetic factors affect appearance. I work with people who, at my age of 46, look both 5-6 years younger and 10+ years older.

To A. G. Steyn, as well: there's also the problem of language in assessing ages, especially with English which is an imprecise language, and more especially with American, which is even more ambiguous. It's entirely possible that the description of a "young" Darth Vader has different roots than mere chronological age. I've heard/read 35 year old men described as "young", and I've heard the word used to describe anyone who is new at starting a task, whether they be 15 or 50. The use of the word *young* to mean very specifically a person under 30, if not under 20, seems a fairly recent and — to me — very much media-American speak, with its obsession with youth.

And besides, the movies don't talk of ages at all; these people are travelling in space which screws up time, and we have no idea whatsoever how long these people live. Maybe OWK is 120 and 40 is indeed chronologically young to him! Much like Spock, at 33-34 when we first saw him on ST — if I remember correctly, being barely out of his teen-age years by Vulcan standards (and no wonder he was socially awkward, his humanness not withstanding).

Marti Schuller (SE39): I wonder — why should anyone know about Luke and Leia's paternity? Alderaan, with Bail and Foster Mom and their court, is gone. Kenobi is dead. Palpatine is dead. The secret was kept from Vader for over 20 years, which might imply success at keeping any hint of the births/connection out of the records. Who would know in the Alliance? Mon Mothma? Possibly. Maybe it's just Luke and Leia's (and by extension, Han's) little secret. Maybe, now that all the principals are dead, even Luke and Leia will not really care that much. After all, who even knows what happened on DS2? Only Luke remains of that encounter. Antilles and Calrissian are the heroes of the DS2 destruction, with a nod to the ground troops.

(SE40) That Kenobi spent all his time post-Republic on Tatooine alone is, I think, one of those fannish conventions that another LoC mentioned: accepted by most, but with no foundation in the actual films. It may come from the novelizations, but, as you say, there are many possibilities. One could take Tarkin's "Surely, he must be dead by now," remark and fly off on a story wherein Kenobi did roar about the galaxy, trying to rouse people and getting shot at so often and reported dead so many times that by the time 20 years had passed, no one expects to see him again. Maybe he did so for a few years, then dropped out of sight, leaving people to assume he had died. Maybe, had he lived through the Death Star I battle, he would have had to endure a Snake Plissken "Obi-wan Kenobi? I heard you was dead!" re-entry into society.

Ming: Related to your comments on what is good/moral?, and to all the comments (throughout the years, not just in SE) about SW being obvious good vs. evil, I'd like to throw in the possibility that SW may be just as much about "right vs. right" in that it presents people in difficult situations, with multiple interpretations and paths facing them. Yes, blowing up planets is easy to see as evil (although some fans argued in years past that such was an acceptable military action), but what about OWK's choices, or Lars', or even Anakin's? A founder of the Institute for Global Ethics, Rushwood Kidder, has described four "right vs. right" categories: *truth vs. loyalty; individual vs. community; short-term vs. long-term; and justice vs. mercy*. When people face these kinds of choices, Kidder says, they most often apply one of three moral principles, which are (1) Utilitarianism, which is doing what's best for

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the greatest number of people; (2) Rule-Based Thinking, which uses inner conscience as a guide; and (3) Care-Based Thinking, which means treating others as you would have them treat you.

SW is just chock full of these kinds of situations, as it sets up all sorts of problems for the characters and the audiences to solve, providing for endless involvement, which is why — IMO — it's still popular world-wide after all these years. Especially since the stark dichotomy of Western classic Good vs. Evil as a defining human social element, is not universal approach to life.

Pat Nussman: Absolutely, computer bulletin boards are a time sink and decisions must be made, or else the days extended to 48 hours each. Also, the BBS are not places to leave/receive deep and long thoughts. They're great for networking and schmoozing and human contact (yes, I mean human — I've been touched in heart-warming ways by many people on the nets). But the thoughts evaporate and you find yourself repeating yourself every month or so. For fact gathering, they are powerful tools, but for thematic development and thoughtful discourse the BBS are made of teflon.

Yes! Now that the Alliance has won, the Clone Wars (i.e., Civil War) will be revealed as what they truly were: The War between the Worlds (i.e., War Between the States) to define galactic society and world rights. Bring on the galactic Ken Burns!

Well, actually, re: Mon Mothma, I *am* working on a series of stories (one pre-Jedi and 2 immediately post-Jedi) in which an assassination attempt is a plot point (both Imperial and Alliance claims for the attempt are put forward). Personally, and despite the pro novels, I think that many post-Empire politicians will find someone who founded and ran a rebellion too damn dangerous to keep around in "peacetime." (See my answer to Jacqueline for other reasons why folks inside the Alliance might not care for a continuance of revolutionary spirits once Palpatine is done for.) Of course, since I'm of the Emperor-as-Mule school, I see the post-ROTJ political situation as totally AFU due to Palpatine's Forceful meddling.

Well, you can count me to the PPMSWC club on both MMothma's and Wedge's part. In my mainline stories, Wedge will develop as the "for godsake, let's get something done" Jedi to the evolution of Luke's more reflective/theoretical persona. I realize that Lando is not a minor character, but the way fandom has ignored him over the years, he might as well be, so you can throw him in too, on my side, since those MM stories are told from his point of view.

Louise Turner: (SE39) Thank you for pointing out that fairy tales are not necessarily "pretty" tales. Certainly, when I was a kid, I had no patience for cleaned up stories when I encountered them. I wanted the real stuff, with bad

guys rolled in kegs of nails down the hill to the river and nasty siblings cutting off their heels in their greed and the violent mother or father leaving the kid in the woods. I wanted stories that addressed my real fears and suspicions about the world and not something that simply made nice and patted me on the head and told me not to worry. (Don't ask my opinion of Disney!)

Also, as you pointed out, I needed to know that good can be pulled out of evil, otherwise who wouldn't despair?

Speaking of good out of... Louise, there is no need to have a computer to do a zine. Don't let yourself be intimidated. Some of the best zines that ever printed were done on mimeographs, or typed and then pasted together on kitchen sinks. Go for it, whatever!

And thank you for the kind words about my stories. I'm hoping to follow up the plot streams in those stories with the ones I told Pat about above.

I don't know, though, about intellectuals being such a great support of the Alliance. Depends on how the Empire was presented at the beginning. Also, was it fascist, or was it totalitarian? And what were the prevalent ideas about government/galactic society in the Republic just before it fell? It's popular to think of the Enlightenment intellectuals supporting democracy in the late 1700s, but a good many of them had no interest whatsoever in the "mob" getting involved with their democracy. And in the 20th century, many intellectuals, disillusioned with late 19th century capitalism and with the growing pop cultures that distained their potential contributions, were seduced by the totalitarian version of Marxism.

(SE40) Oh, I know what you mean about believing oneself past the super-intense phase of fandom only to have a button or two pushed by some perceived distortion of SWTRUTH! I'm not terribly involved with Trek these days — okay, I've been out of it for a long while — but although I proclaim my disinterest when someone at work calls me a Trekker, the following five minutes (or more) of reasons *why* I'm not a current fan (i.e., what was wrong/right with the movies, NewGen, DS9, etc.) betray my fannishness everytime.

As for romantic heroes, I'll be looking forward to reading responses to your question. Dark, fatalistic heroes who flame out at the end aren't terribly American heroes; they aren't social successors and don't wed/tame easily. Just look at the way fans reform/explain away/make nice the darker characters that do show up in fandom; even Avon in B7 had to be "explained."

Gerald Crotty: (SE39) I like your term, *science eventuality*!

Yes, the differences between 70mm and 35 are annoying. I wonder how many fans out there have ever seen the three movies in proper ratio? Some of the side action contributed mightily to character development in

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early fan lit, especially with Han in ANH who is much more vulnerable in behavior when he thinks no one is looking. And OWK's reaction to Solo becomes more complex when you ignore the dialogue between Solo and Luke and watch Kenobi's reaction on the side.

Still, I will praise VCRs for the ability to stop action. The exchange among Solo, Kenobi and Skywalker in the cantina is fascinating when done frame by frame. You really get a more intense sense of the fencing between Kenobi and Solo... which leads one to all sorts of curious thoughts about Kenobi and where he picked up such styles of speech and understanding (and, where did he learn enough about new tech to be able to glance at the screen display on the DS and know exactly what to do to disable the force field, huh?).

(#40) Oh heavens, the Imperial fans were quite serious, and there were some fascinating articles on why the Empire was the legitimate government and the rebels were terrorists on a galactic order. Everything was political, and very seriously so. For many, SW was not so much a battle between good and evil but a presentation of revolution and the battle against Authority. A very different movie in many ways.

Pat Grant: I can appreciate your response to Yoda's Do/Do Not comment. My mother was also of the "either it's done to my expectations or you didn't do it" school. Still, I don't think Yoda was speaking in destructive Win/Lose terms. Two lines of thought arose:

(1) It's a male/female thing. Boys are told to do something and if they fail, they're told to go back and do it until it works, with no major criticism involved unless they give up. Girls are told, "Well, at least you tried, honey." Therefor, the argument went, guys will understand that Yoda is simply telling Luke to keep doing it until you learn how to do it, while the gals will think the comment is critical and insensitive.

(2) It's a general language thing. The words "do" and "try" are changing meaning. Once *try* implied only attempting something and not carrying through; an incomplete action. And *do* implied completed action, whether it was successful or not. In this context, you did something and either achieved your goal or failed to achieve it; the goal did not negate the doing and you could always do again, in fact, you probably would since you would learn from the failure. To try to do something, however, meant you didn't really put your heart into it, and probably would stop short of learning anything since you didn't complete the action and so had nothing to build on for future action.

For me, Yoda's comment is simply a statement of action: you do and achieve or you do and don't achieve. If the latter, you start over and do it again. The emphasis is on actually doing and carrying through whether you reach

your goal or not. Just trying isn't enough because trying implies less than honest commitment; knowing you can *just try* creates an attitude that allows a person to create illusions.

Jacqueline Taero: I'm glad you (and others!) found the idea of a Fleet-free Republic intriguing. For me, using a medieval model provides too great a temptation to equate a Republic sans established Star Fleet with a technologically inferior society. The tech advances of the past couple hundred years have obscured *attitude* differences that are, IMO, a truer distinction between then and now. (If the Republic was trading amongst its own planets for 1,000 generations, it had to be technically sophisticated, at least in space travel.)

Perhaps, like the European Medieval world which lived in relationship with an outside power (the Christian God and His promise of Heaven), the Republic lived/used its technology in relationship with a philosophy born in the acceptance of the Force, with the Jedi as the visible representatives among diverse societies/systems.

Then, just as since Medieval days we have increasingly lived in relationship with the Self and its fulfillment/happiness (and in this century, with a perception of social development as subject to History/Progress/The Machine), maybe a movement toward a more "efficient/practical/unified" use of technology arose within the Republic. The Empire may represent those who are willing to submit human/sentient endeavor/differences to the idea of technological determination/progress. Palpatine could have used this movement to promote a "universal" view of service/bureacracy/culture/trade that — of course — needed a strong leader to guide it's infancy.

Hmm, just had a thought. It's entirely possible that there are those within the Alliance who firmly believe in the good of such unification, but who despair of how Palpatine is going about it; and so they join the Alliance out of a need to depose the Emperor while still planning to push their ideas once Palpatine is gone. Now *there's* a thorny problem for the up-coming power brokers to struggle with!

(None of this is to say that individual planets, in their every day living, were equally technologically oriented. I imagine the mix of tools would vary widely, just like here.)

I agree that the timing of the Jedi destruction is problematic until Lucas, if Lucas, defines it in the 1st trilogy. It's possible that the "Fall" was merely the last event in a long-term dissolution of attention to the Jedi on the part of galactic society. Perhaps a lack of attention by the Jedi, too. Rather like IBM, resting on twenty years of success and old assumptions of progress and therefore misreading the appeal and power of Macintoshes.

Oh, isn't it possible that Bail is called to the roll and named Viceroy by his own people? As a reminder of who's really boss? After all, our own president and congressional

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delegates are supposed to be our employees, not our king and princes, however much they (and many Americans) seem to forget that these days.

Naw, the Jedi aren't necessary to any government's survival, but they — or social structures like them, say spiritual organizations — may be necessary to any *civilization*. Just like kids can grow to maturity under any number of appalling conditions, but will they be human/e when they get there or just a form of adult human animals?

You're right about Leia's "skittishness" being person-specific. I'd like to add that her proverbial "bitchiness" reads the same and is usually directed the same way, at Han. Which blows out of the water all the beloved presentations of Leia as bitchy to the world.

Just the same, Amanda Palumbo makes a good point about Leia being the one who brings the "fellowship" together. She brings Luke to OWK; she keeps Han focused; she's involved in nearly all the important crunches (rescuing Luke under Bespin, providing DV with a successful goad in the last fight between him and Luke). This reminds me of an argument I've long had with the Yoda & OWK as Master Movers theory: if the only thing that got Luke involved was the chance of Leia's consular ship getting chased after being caught accepting illegal transmissions off the DS, then just how were Yoda & OWK manipulating events? With Yoda thinking Luke is too old, and OWK dug into the desert of a rim world ... aah, it just doesn't work for me.

And, to Mary Jo Fox, yeah, and it's going to be a while longer yet before Leia is appreciated for herself. Tell me that it's a little different for young women in the 90s than it was for those of us in the 70s, and I'll be happier.

As for SW ambiguities, well, see what you think about my answer to Liz Sharpe.

Liz presented a concise assessment of Han Solo's legal behavior in the Saga in SE39. She both described his behavior vis à vis authority and recognized that attitudes toward such behavior are dependant upon reactions to and respect for established authority.

I read the letter, nodded my head, then thought a moment and asked my Significant Other, "How are we defining *hero* these days?" Getting an annoyed, owlish look in response, I added, "I mean, what's the difference between a hero and a protagonist in current thought? Does a hero have to exemplify totally admirable behavior? If he's flawed, is he only a protagonist? And who defines *admirable behavior*?"

My SO, being conservative in the ways of literature, gave me a short lecture on Icelandic Saga literature and Classic Tragedy. Her explanation seemed to imply that a hero is Major Admirable — and excused a lot of behavior because he's a *hero*, while a tragic character can be sympathised with but can't be a Hero because of his Major

Flaw, which drives the tragedy. The term protagonist and the suggestion of volitile definitions in popular media got her grumbling and I dropped the issue.

Instead, fueled by the strong suspicion that fans were shouting past each other, I described the current argument over Han's status/criminal behavior to a local 21-yr-old SW fan, someone who came back to the movies in her late teens because of the pro books and comics, someone for whom, she reminds me, *all the pro stuff is SW*.

My friend was very uncomfortable with the idea of Han as a criminal. Intellectually, she agreed that Han probably "had a history" that is not squeaky clean; emotionally, she desperately wants Han to be a *real* good guy, without baggage that has to be explained.

But, I protested a la Liz' arguments, he does A, B and C and you know as well as I do that A, B, and C are criminal behavior. We talked around and around the subject for a while. Finally, we figured out that, as someone who had been only 4 years old when SW first appeared and who grew up in the city in the 80s and 90s, her definitions of good guy, and criminal, are very different from mine. *Very* different.

My friend's definition of good guy/hero includes a degree of violent, and legally questionable, behavior that my generation didn't expect in heroes. Would Little Joe Cartwright growl, *Make my day*? Would Matt Dillon chortle, *Hasta la vista, Baby*, as either blew the baddies away? For audiences of the '60s, protagonists who foreshadowed Dirty Harry, *et al*, were even called *anti-heroes*. When did you last hear that term, save in a video catalog listing *Hud*?

The way I interpret my friend's observations is this: because heroes were allowed more latitude in the late 70s and into the 90s, absorbing behavior that once had to be "explained" for Han, criminals became, by definition, *really nasty*.

For my younger friends drugs are crack and junkies, not low-level THC highs and hippies. Guns are something the neighbor kids carry, not a sleek sexy symbol for a spy or a Peace-Bringer for the sheriff. Alan studied SW in film class and found it *quaint*, for heaven's sake; and Yolanda worries about drive-by shootings on her walk home from the bus stop after classes.

Alan and Yolanda don't need to rationalize Han's behavior. Of course he's armed. Of course he kills Greedo. Of course his business dealings are simply smart dealings. He's the *hero* and he's fighting for my side and my continuing good life in the way it's *really* done. Alan and Yolanda automatically exclude Han from *really* criminal behavior and don't need our boomer lines in the sand.

Reality seems to support this development -- it's reasonable that my friend doesn't want Han, whom she likes, associated with serial killers, drive-by shootings, or

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vicious drug dealings. But, if a new fan reads older fanzines, or a story by a writer who still uses a fuzzier vocabulary, Han's extra-legal activity can easily be misread as a level of hard-core criminality that the writer didn't mean.

(Frankly, my friends' definition of a good guy disturbs me. I don't want the good guys to be the equivalent of Han in ANH's cantina, shooting Greedo under the table. I want Han to be borderline, to be changed by his experiences with Luke and Leia into the Han we see in ROTJ, a softer, laughing man. I don't want good guys who don't regret being turned into killers, even of really nasty bad guys. But, then, I'm an early Boomer.

And Lucas is five years older than me. I wonder if he sees the same changes in perceptions that my friends have led me to see. Maybe, in a way, he actually couldn't make his first trilogy, with all it's implied darkside choices and behaviors, until the 90s.)

Liz, I'll vote for the Emperor not knowing about Yoda, citing the dialogue when Vader presented Luke ("OWK has taught you well" sort of chatter from both DV and Emp), and the belief that it makes for a better story if one has to explain why ol' Yellow Eyes doesn't grok the Old Mushroom. By the by, good point about Yoda's reaction to Luke's comment before he leaves.

On SW as Good/Bad, Black/White storytelling, although lots of people agreed with SW as such from the very beginning, plenty complained that the movie was *not* B&W enough. SW's bad guys were too appealing; it's good guys were too questionable in their actions. SW was not specific in what it promoted, unlike Trek which presented a philosophy, and — by gosh — let you know *why* Our Side were the Good Guys, and the Bad Guys Not. Sure, SW made it clear that the audience was expected to cheer on Luke and Han in their rescue, but — *why* were Luke/Han/the Alliance the good guys? Because the Empire blew up Alderaan? As mentioned early, there were fans who saw the Empire as the established Government and the rebels as a terrorist force.

For me, that unknown quantity is real *and* essential to SW. Unlike Trek, with which you either agreed or not, SW leaves us free to think; in fact, *insists* we stop and think. It is not B&W at all.

And, that's why I wanted to stand up and cheer when OWK pointed out that "the truths we hold most dear" are dependant on our own point of view.

Yeah, I nearly did. And I've rewritten this part of my letter half a dozen times, it seems, in my effort to intelligibly explain why I disagree so completely with you on this issue.

So, here's my interpretation of the issue. Take it as you will. (Warning — personal philosophical rambling follow. Proceed with caution or to the next letter, as mood or

inclinations lead you...!)

On my tape, OWK's exact words are, "Luke, you're going to find that many of the truths we cling to depend greatly on our own point of view."

Note that Kenobi didn't say *all* truths, just *many*. To me, his message is that I (Luke) constantly have to review what I accept as Truth, most especially those truths I "cling to", i.e., depend upon most heavily and pronounce most assuredly. If I'm to be an honest adult, I'm going to have to *know* that I select the truths I continue to profess rather than blindly claiming that I have no choice in the matter because "of course, X and Y are true."

Fact is, murder/killing, honesty, loyalty, parental affection, self-interest, and all those actions with "timeless" definitions are often defined very differently through human history and in humanity's varied societies. The *subjects* are basic to human discussion, yes, but not necessarily the applications!

(Think of suicide, which is considered the antithesis to human self-respect in some societies, and one measure of self-determination/honor/duty in others. Each of us comes to our own decision about suicide, our own judgments of other's suicides, but are those decisions and judgments the "truth"?)

All socialized humans grow up wanting to be "right" in the eyes of their peers. We're social animals and need to be accepted ... and therefore, we accept rules and norms of behavior and interpretations of that behavior. Our group's standards become our standards, our communal "absolutes."

I don't think Kenobi's saying that there are no absolutes; that's not his argument here. Rather, he saying that a person should be very aware of the origin of what s/he considers an absolute. Does it come from the group? Is it a meta-absolute? Or is it our own private absolute? And even if it is the larger absolute, we should be aware of how that absolute came about, so we can understand the consequences of our acceptance of that value.

OWK may be saying that — similar to the advice to Question Authority — one must learn to question the authority of the very human need for absolutes. We *like* absolutes; we find social order and security in absolutes. But must we be locked in our absolutes?

It seems to be that Jedi would have to be super-aware of the extent to which sentience creates its own universe. Both science and religions have long reminded us that *any* truth we can experience is by necessity limited by that experience. The Tao, the God, the Universal Mystery that we can describe is *not* the Tao, or God, or the Mystery. The only Truth-That-Is cannot be expressed, leaving all our Truths to be lesser truths of experience and/or mutual agreement. Science aside, if there is one point that all religions seem to agree on, it is that there is indeed a

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mystical otherness that can never be accounted for in human terms; and that this is the only ultimate Truth. After that level, we're in the realm of human assessment.

The contradictions of SW remind me a lot of the story, *Rashomon*. (And Kurasawa is a hero of Lucas'.) The crime in *Rashomon* is witnessed by 5 different people. That a man is dead and a woman experienced intercourse are facts — but facts are not truth, *i.e.*, "what really happened." All 5 people tell stories that reflect possible, human interpretations of the events ... and each story is different, and often contradictory. The final judgment is an "agreement" of truth on the part of the community, but is it "true"? The audience realizes that it doesn't know ... and *can't* know; each individual viewer can only decide which story to accept for him or herself.

That Anakin Skywalker sired Luke is a SW fact. That OWK told Luke in ROTJ that Luke must "face Vader again," with Luke being the one who used the words, "I can't. I can't kill my father," are SW facts. However, the *truths* that OWK, Luke, and we fans draw from those facts vary wildly, and probably always will.

If Luke had "clung" to OWK's truth of the death of Anakin when Vader arose, he probably wouldn't have accepted the truth of his experience of good still deep within Vader. I would argue that OWK's warning is that if Luke does not question his own absolutes — "I can't kill my own father" — then he will be prime meat for the mental manipulation of an experienced Force User, who has already proven that he's very good at turning idealism on its head.

(The corollary here is that we are all capable of all Evil, and most so when we deny that capability, whether through our own supposed impervious will or because of our reliance on the will of another power (be it the State/Law or God to prevent it). Luke is most vulnerable when he realizes that he has indeed acted Just Like Dad. At this point he can give into despair — *I'm no longer perfect/pure and therefore can only be bad* — or make the choice to stop what he is doing and start over again. Which is what he did, forever afterwards to live imperfectly and never again able to say "I can't kill my own father." And, IMO, to live a much wiser, saner, and Truthful life.)

As you said, the stuff of SW is not easy or simple. To go back to the question of SW as a black and white presentation — for me, in this movie there are no clearly marked paths of right and wrong, truth and falsehood, but rather there is a lesson that we must always strive to see our own thoughts/prejudices/ambitions clearly, with responsibility to others, and in the spirit of love and the affirmation of life. No pat answers. No easy ways to sit back and relax in our righteousness. Even the talented Anakin screwed up; even Obi-wan has his blind spots; even the heroes, and you and I, are always struggling with

right and wrong.

*Try? There is no Try; Do or Do not.*

*End? There is no End; it is enough to Aim.*

Both sages who said these things could have added, And then Live with the Consequences.

Whew. I'd had better stop before the hole gets any deeper. Or Cheree starts hitting the Delete button, and this time, on purpose! Have fun at MWC all!

((*Ed: Maggie's LoC is so extraordinarily long this time because it's actually two LoCs in one. She sent her usual wonderfully scholarly letter last time on disk and I proceeded to plug it into the zine. Only this time, I screwed up and accidentally deleted her LoC and never noticed it (the mixer in my brain having been set on puree for some weeks at that point) until she pointedly brought it to my attention! My deepest apologies, Maggie! I'll try not to let that happen again!)*))

## FIRST EVER BRITISH SW CON

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Hello, everybody!

On November 13, 1994, we had a one-day SW con. As far as I know this was the first SW con ever in the U.K. It was held at a cinema called "The Venue" opposite the Elstree Studios. The event was called "The Elstree/Star Wars Day". The guests were Dave Prowse, Kenny Baker, Mike Edmonds and Jeremy Bulloch. Due to some problems, the scheduled events were a bit late starting. The guests were introduced to the audience at about 11 a.m. Bulloch was a surprise guest. He replaced Brian Johnston who couldn't make it. The guests were escorted onto the stage by 2 fans in excellent hand-made costumes of Boba Fett and Boschh. Next they showed all the movie trailers for the Trilogy. I hadn't seen them in a long time. The early SW ones are strange. They have a sinister quality to them. After that, the stars began signing autographs. Unfortunately, since the event was held in a cinema, there wasn't much space. There was a bar with some seating area, but that was occupied by some dealers' tables, so the guests had to do signing in the corridors.

There was an exhibition room with some excellent props on display: TIE fighter helmet, stormtrooper helmet, 4-LOM mask, various weapons, and a complete Darth Vader costume which had been fitted with a breathing sound. Very impressive!

As the day progressed, it became obvious that most fans were getting more than one autograph from each guest and

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so it was going to take a lot longer than expected.

Around 2 p.m., they showed "The Making of Empire", then at 3 p.m., the highlight of the day — a film called "Return of the Ewok." I say highlight because this was the first time it's ever been seen. It was made in 1982 by Dave Tomblin during the production of ROTJ. Tomblin became friends with Warwick Davis and decided to make a short comedy film with him in their spare time. It's about 30 minutes long and concerns Warwick trying to get a part in ROTJ. He goes around Elstree meeting many of the production crew and cast. Eventually, he travels to Endor as Wicket and meets Han, Luke, Leia, 3PO and Artoo. Then he meets the other Ewoks and there is a battle with stormtroopers. After which Warwick's parents turn up to take him home. He tries to tell them of his adventures but they don't believe him. It's really quite funny and charming. It almost made me like the Ewoks!

The items on the dealers' tables seemed very expensive so I didn't buy anything. Later in the afternoon there was a charity auction of rare and unusual SW items.

Around 6:30 p.m., there was a question and answer session with the guests. Dave Prowse seemed rather bitter. He said he hated ROTJ (several times). He also complained about the money he gets in residuals and that he wasn't allowed to see a complete script during shooting. Kenny Baker was the exact opposite. He was very cheerful and had nothing but happy memories of working on the movies. Jeremy Bulloch seemed a bit bemused by the attention of the fans in a character he knew very little about. However, he did say that he thought that Fett would have escaped from the Sarlacc.

Well, it was a great day and although there were some organizational problems, it went surprisingly well for a first con. I spent most of the day talking to pen friends, some of whom I was meeting for the first time. Hope we can do it again soon!

Onward...

Kenneth Branagh as young Kenobi... Well, I know it's only a rumor but I certainly hope it never happens. I recently saw him in *Peter's Friends* and *Dead Again* and his performances were absolutely awful. He cannot act. Why he gets so much praise is beyond me.

SW Special Edition: Well, I just read a report on this by Lisa Cowan and it seems definite that Lucas does not plan to replace the Biggs scenes. In my opinion, these are the only scenes which are essential. Can I suggest to everyone that you write to Lucasfilm and let them know that you want to see the Biggs scenes? I really think this is important. There's only going to be one special edition and we've all waited a long time to see those scenes. Let's make sure it happens. I really think that if enough of us write in, then Lucas will do something.

Blelea: According to the novelizations, TESB takes

place three years after SW and ROTJ takes place 6 months after TESB. In the script published in *The Art of SW*, Luke is described as 18. In the SW novel, he's 20. So by the end of ROTJ, he's 21-22 or 23-24. There is a timeline of ages and events in the new *Guide to the SW Universe* by Bill Slavicsek. However, this timeline isn't accepted by everyone. I think Luke and Leia are 18 as of ANH.

I think the friendship between Ben and Anakin will be the major issue of the first trilogy and what happens to destroy their friendship. Obviously some sort of betrayal must be involved. Perhaps Ben falls in love with Anakin's wife. This would match the Arthurian legend. Ben as Lancelot, Anakin as Arthur.

Louise Turner: Well, you're showing your true colors at last. You admitted that the only reason you dislike Threepio is because he's English. And I can sympathize. No doubt you feel very envious of the fact that he pronounced his vowels correctly and has good manners. As for the Scottish members of the cast: Ol' Lawson can't decide what accent to use and McDiarmid needed several pounds of latex plus optical effects to help his over-the-top pantomime performance. He should have studied Peter Cushing a bit more. Now there's a guy who knows how to play evil. A slight smile, raise an eyebrow, clear diction, much more effective than all that cackling and lightning bolts.

Louise, you mustn't feel inferior to 3PO just because he's English. With some voice training, you could learn to speak properly. Just think how wonderful it would be if everyone spoke like 3PO!

Thought your ideas about the Ideal Romantic Hero very interesting. You're just a weirdo, aren't you?

Tim Blaes: Yes, Leia is described as "about 16" in *The Art of SW* but, if you believe Leia is 16, then Luke is, too. Most fans don't seem able to accept that he's as young as 18. So, they're certainly not going to believe he was 16. How long is a year in the SW galaxy? Oh, God, I don't even think about that. It's hard enough agreeing on a coherent timeline, but if we start questioning the length of a year, it'll really open up a can of worms.

Raymond Velasco was the author of the first *Guide to the SW Universe* published in 1984.

I was looking through some of my *Superboy and the Legion of Superheroes* comics from the mid-70's recently and I noticed the name Tim Blaes on the letters page. Was that you?

Stargate: Have to mention this because a lot of reviewers are comparing it to SW. Well, all I can say is "HA!" Even after all this time, critics still don't understand what made SW so great. *Stargate* has some nice widescreen visuals, but no drama, wit, chemistry, or excitement.

Has anyone seen *Radioland Murders*? I heard that it

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had been released but then not a word since. It hasn't been released over here yet.

Star Wars Insider: Well, the first issue is better than the Lucasfilm mag, mainly because it's all SW. But it still has the same annoying aspects of the Lucasfilm mag. The letters page really encapsulates all the things that bother me. Every letter is totally sycophantic. I don't blame the letter writers since I can well imagine that anything critical or intelligent has been carefully removed before they're published. And the whole magazine is so patronizing. A good example is the interview with Sue Rostoni and Allan Kausch about timeline and continuity. When asked about the fans' obsession with continuity, they refer to a fan who noticed that the *Falcon* photo on the *Starlog Technical Journal* was flopped, which makes it seem like the "fans" are only interested in the most trivial of trivia. Why don't they mention that the fans have written in pointing out some very confusing continuity errors within the canon material? Of course, they daren't do that because it might reveal that the fans know more than they do! However, on the plus side, I'd have to say that the interview with Carrie Fisher was pretty good.

Well, that's all for now...

## CALIBER OF ZINE WRITERS

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January 17, 1995

Que pasa, everyone? I hope everyone's holidays went well! But I have a feeling 1995 will fly just as fast as 1994 did... Now on with the show!

Nora: Your comments about the novels being viewed as canon got these ol' mental gears creaking. Yes, I can see new fanfic writers being influenced by the novels in the beginning of their zine careers (for lack of a better term). But I don't see that lasting because the caliber of zine writers already established is too good, along with the editors as well. They can't help but learn from, if not emulate, the editors' and writers' styles. I mean, who here hasn't (say that 3 times) been influenced by various zine writers?

Your reaction to that fan saying she had the "real thing" (as she called the novels) is understandable. But, unfortunately, fanzines do have a so-so image. When I was in college, I saw local fanzines dedicated to the local rock/music scene and I recall they didn't outsell *Rolling Stone* when they were displayed at the record store counter.

People wanted "real magazines". All I can say is, it's their loss. But I definitely would have the same reaction as you did first thing, if I heard that.

Barbara: Your reaction about a "smutzine" made me stop and say, I didn't think of it that way. I see your POV; and I'm glad you said it because it sparked some discussion. Like Maggie once said, it's around — it's gone underground. So I figured it's always been there so I won't worry about it. GL himself hasn't been policing the zine scene as much either. And what may offend one person may be condoned by the other. So it's a tough argument to make. All we can do is tolerate different views.

Maggie: Thanks so much for presenting the history of SW fandom! I enjoyed reading it; but on the other hand, it make me kind of sad. Because of all that bickering, how many new writers were turned off by SW? I hate to think of all those ideas that were lost... I know my reaction would've been — had I joined in fandom at that time — forget this! If I want abuse, I'll go to the Division of Motor Vehicles and renew my license for fun! I just hope it never happens again!

Debbie: Hey, keep that snow on your side of the Potomac! All of us Virginian Bothans like to drive on a clean, dry highway! So please, folks, when you wish Debbie could have all your snow, don't do that! I live too close to MD! Give me Tatooine weather anytime!

Wouldn't you know it — we buy enough card sheets and they change the size of the cards! It's definitely an Imperial marketing strategy!

Carolyn: Thanks for asking. My knee's all healed, the research is done, now it's time to set up shop! I can't wait! I'll have everything set up and the first print should be hot off the presses during the beginning of Feb. I'll let you know how it goes.

Cheryl & Lin & Other Cadfael Fans: Thanks for telling me about those books! They're great! Now I'm looking forward to watching all the Cadfael shows on *Mystery* (PBS). Derek Jacobi steals the show!

Ming & Z.P.: Thanks to you and everyone else for their comments on the Ewoks. I'll definitely have to read more of Mary Jean Holmes' stuff. At least they're not being as marketed as much as they were when ROTJ came out.

Tim: Your description of going to your first MWC definitely is on the money! My reaction to MWC consisted of sensory overload to downright loneliness; but overall, I enjoyed it immensely.

To several: Give three cheers for Leia! She made Capt. Janeway a reality! A woman captain at last! *Voyager* is great!

Pat & Other Readers: After reading the novels and listening to the radio shows, I come to appreciate Harrison Ford's portrayal of Han Solo more and more. No one else has been able to get the mixture of humanity and menace

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right. He made Han so believable — that, yes, he can shoot someone like he did Greedo, yet be able to win the heart of Leia. Most of the other portrayals make Han sound like he can be too stupid to live. Just thought I'd throw my credit's worth into the fray.

Marti & Judy: I hope things are going better for you. Hang in there!

Dead Bothans: Hey, it's been a great year hanging out with you guys! Like Mary Jo said, let's make more dealers cringe and keep Another Universe in business! Take care and let's also make 1995 a year to remember!

Oh, my, I think I disqualified myself from the short letter sweepstakes. What the heck, it was fun conversing with you folks! I guess I'm getting to be a chatterbox in my old age. Take care and welcome to all the new SE'ers and future Bothans! Congrats to Randy about the new job! May more Bothans be slain this year! Talk to y'all later! Ciao!

## CRITICISM OF PRO NOVELS

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Debbie: Re your question as to whether we, as fans, are prejudiced against prowriters. No, I honestly don't think so. I'd be *delighted* to find profic I really liked ... a good SW story, fan or pro, is something to be prized. But I don't feel many of the SW writers have thought through the characterization ... and I feel *Jedi Search* is a particular problem in this regard. As I said (*ad nauseum*) in my SE39 letter, I found Anderson's portrayal of Leia and Han, in particular, pretty damned outrageous.

Zahn, BTW, didn't outrage me. He just bored me.

Of course, there are many fan stories I think are *much* worse than *Jedi Search*, the Zahn books, *et al* and I don't get hot under the collar about those (well, in most cases). However, I don't think it's unreasonable to hold a writer who's working for pay to somewhat higher standards ... not to mention that these are "official" Lucasfilm products and fanfic stories are not.

To put it another way: You don't criticize someone who plays golf on the weekend like you would a pro golfer, right?

I hasten to add that all this is (obviously, I think) IMHO only. The *Jedi Academy* books are selling like lemonade on Tatooine (I understand that *Jedi Search* was the best selling SF book of 1994) and, as far as pro novels are concerned, the proof of the pudding is in the sales figures.

OTOH, I am looking forward to reading McIntyre's

book, because I really like her Trek novelizations. (However, I will admit that the fact the book is apparently a lot about the kids prejudices me ... I wish someone would kidnap those kids and *keep them!* I want to read about Han, Luke, Leia and the other adults.) I understand Barbara Hambley is doing a SW novel, as well ... I think she's a very good writer and I'm looking forward to her contribution.

But I do wish Lucas had chosen to seek out some of the SW fans who've gone pro and commission *them* to do books, rather than choosing people with no real interest in SW other than their next paycheck.

Louise: Re your definition of the Romantic Hero (more morally ambiguous, even dangerous) ... hmm, into *Blake's 7*, as well as SW, are you? Sounds like Kerr Avon to me. (I am, myself, a raving Avon fan. But that's a different subject...)

I guess I'll forgive you for killing off Rieekan in your universe. Maybe. This time. :-)

Cheree: Argh, yes. I remember the MediaWest with *The Prisoner* motif all too well ... my most embarrassing con, ever. Usually, I can peek at people's badges and pretend I remember who they were all along. But that year...=shudder=.

Gerald: No, I didn't think that part of *Jedi Search* should've been devoted to debating whether the Jedi should be revived. But I thought that it should've been referenced that the Senate had or would talk about it, instead of just rubber-stamping Luke's proposal. I've never seen any free legislative body that *didn't* debate proposals *ad nauseum* (look at the U.S. Senate, your own Parliament or the new Russian legislature ... they go on and on), and I just felt the Anderson scenario was beyond the bounds of beliefs. That's just not the way legislators/politicians behave. IMHO, of course!

Judith: I apologize if I've stepped on anyone's toes in my criticism of the novels. If the consensus is that this subject is likely to cause too much controversy, I'm more than willing to keep my trap shut. But IMO, this subject just isn't as sensitive as the old CoF/CoL controversy (where opinions of characters tended to reflect the world views of the fans expressing them). I certainly would not criticize a fan writer so strongly as I have the pros — but that's because professional writers are paid to take a certain amount of criticism in the form of reviews, for example.

Also, I'll admit I feel more free to criticize because the writers aren't here in SE. I've had to swallow my opinions in the online forums I frequent (Fidonet and GEnie), because Kevin Anderson is hanging out there. I'm not bitchy enough (really!) to post a negative review in those places. SE, thus, is the only place I felt I could let off a little steam. Because, yes, I really am frustrated by the treatment of the characters (especially Leia) in the novels.

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But, again, if I've offended, I do apologize. I probably won't have too much more to say on the subject, anyway, since I haven't read the remainder of the *Jedi Academy* series. I have a pile of books I really *want* to read and I'm not so determined to criticize Kevin that I'll slough through books I don't particularly like in order to do it!

## A LITTLE WEIRD

Tina Inge Bentrup  
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Greetings, Enclavers! This letter is going to be a little weird because I seem to have misplaced the last 2 issues. Somewhere in this great barn of a house, buried under a pile of slither, or vanished into the black hole where odd socks go, are all the choice letters and red-hot issues I wanted to respond to. So I'm just goin to wing it and try to remember (the kind of September) what I was going to say.

First of all, I'd like to respond to Gerald Crotty's invitation to discuss the new Trilogy. This is a subject that's close to us all. Here are some of the thoughts I've had:

George has stated that he will not be using any actors from the existing Trilogy, but I don't see how he can avoid it entirely. We know that the two droids are the only characters who will continue through all the SW movies. So it would seem that Anthony Daniels would need to be involved again, if only to do voiceovers, if not to don the gold suit a second time. Similarly, since we know we'll be seeing and hearing Darth Vader again in our lifetime (!!!), it sure would be nice if he sounded like James Earl Jones, even if he won't be walking exactly like Dave Prowse. And beyond all logic or hope, I'm praying that George will bring back Ian McDiarmid as Young Palpatine.

George has said that the new Trilogy will be about "betrayal and those kinds of issues," and that characters will not be what they seem. He has also said (and I'm sorry I can't cite my source here, but I *know* I read this) that there will be an evil woman in this story. The actual quote went something like, "In *Star Wars* I showed you the evil father. In this next trilogy, I'll show you the evil mother." Now we know Mrs. Skywalker was "beautiful, kind and sad," so presumably she's not the Darkside Lady. Who does this leave? Well, certainly not Aunt Beru, so maybe it's Leia's adopted mom, Mrs. Bail Organa? The archetypal wicked stepmother...?

I think that the 2 biggest challenges in casting will be Obi-Wan and Anakin. Alec Guiness has a unique elfin quality that will be hard to approximate. Too bad they can't lift him bodily (filmily?) out of some of his old

movies like *The Man in the White Suit* or *The Lavender Hill Mob*, dub in new costumes, scramble the audio track (or have Sir Alec do voiceovers), etc., etc. Maybe they can, who know's what's possible anymore? As for Anakin, I hope George will follow standard procedure and cast an unknown. He won't necessarily have to be tall, because Vader could have been built taller than Anakin (that would explain why Luke and Leia aren't giants), but he will have to have blue eyes, dark hair, and *presence*.

I don't have any trouble imagining what George is going to fill 3 films with. What I do wonder is how he'll handle the serious content. The fall of a good man to evil, his horrific injury and survival as a cyborg, the extermination of the Jedi, and the rise of the Empire: not exactly upbeat material. As Spielberg had to do *Schindler's List*, now maybe George also needs to deal with tragedy. These upcoming films may be quite different in tone from the Trilogy we know.

Will Han and Chewie come into the story at all? I could see a little subplot about those two getting together, not tied into the main plotline at all, but everyone would know what the connection was. It would be neat to see Kashyyyk and lots of Wookiees. But the place I want to see most is Coruscant.

Speaking of Coruscant, what do you think of the latest issue of *SW Insider*? It features a "new painting by [Ralph] McQuarrie of the Entertainment Center on Coruscant." There's so much to look at in that picture, I keep discovering new things all the time. I hope they make a poster of it, also "the frozen geysers of Hoth." Things really seem to be cooking at Lucasfilm!

Maggie: Your literary history of SW fandom is all I had hoped for and more. I'm so interested in your recounting of the pro-Imperial movement, and I was especially gratified to learn that someone had raised the question, "Why did Vader chase the wrong ship?" in TESB. This is only one of the problems I have with the plot of that movie. Is it too late in the day to rehash some of these issues?

1. Why was the Wampa ice-creature necessary? Why didn't Luke simply get zapped by the Imperial probe droid? Everything else could have followed logically from there.

2. Why did Vader chase the *Millennium Falcon*? Did he think Luke was aboard? When did he learn his mistake?

3. How did Luke know where Dagobah was, since it wasn't on the starcharts? I know, I know, he used the Force, but this is never made clear.

4. Why did Vader bring in the bounty hunters when he already knew where the *Millennium Falcon* was?

After 15 years and a zillion viewings, these things don't really bother me too much any more, but they bothered me

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a *lot* the first time around. I thought the plot of TESB was a chaotic mess! Comments, anyone?

Susan Zahn: Eine andere Deutschsprecher? Ausgezeichnet! With a name like Zahn, I should have known. But I'm shocked at your suggestion that we speak German in order to cheat at poker. That just wouldn't be proper!!! Wann wir zusammentreffen bei MWC, dann können wir im geheimen unser Komplott schmieden, ja?

A. G. Steyn: Once again it's raining in Europe and I'm worrying about you. You must be getting pretty soggy.

The Sebastian Shaw Spy Network has some sad news to report. I received a letter from Louise Turner with a newspaper clipping on his obituary. He died on December 23, 1994 at the age of 89. I wish the clipping had given more information about his personal life, but I guess that wouldn't be British. There was no mention of his role in ROTJ.

A few nights before I got Louise's letter, I had dreamed that he died and that I was talking to a lot of people who had known him. I feel as if I've lost someone who was very important to me, even though I never met him or wrote to him.

Sorry to end on a sad note, but that's all I have time for.

## THANK GOD FOR GEORGE LUCAS

Pat Grant  
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February 16, 1995

Hi! Hope all is well with everyone! Is it just me, or is "cabin fever" compounded with the anticipation of MWC approaching? I feel ready to start climbing walls, and it's only mid-February?

Hey — I've heard rumors about a SW convention to be held in 1997 — anyone have any actual facts and information on this?

If anyone is making it to MWC early and would like to get together, please give me a call (517-694-0961). Oh, I screen my calls, so make sure you say something — if I'm home, I'll pick up. I live less than a mile from the hotel, on the same street, and have the entire week off before the convention.

And one last note: I've given a lot of thought to this and have decided I'd like to take on a roommate. Anyone out there interested in moving to Lansing, MI (home of MWC)? Must be female, non-smoker, and like cats (I have two). If so, get in touch with me and we'll talk it over.

Well, there's lots to say, so on with the comments.

Nora Mayers: I share your concerns regarding

*Courtship* and the *Dark Empire* series. New fans will pick up on these personalities and we'll see a whole outcrop of new stories with poor characterization. I just hope new fans have the sense to watch the movies several times before writing anything. I also hope that person who told you she'd lost interest in fanfic since she now had the "real thing" has since come to her senses. Quality is not measured by the difference between fan and pro. It is measured by how well written, believable, and true to the genre the story is.

Susan Zahn (N.R.T.T.): Yes, Louise — I agree we should add the initials, meaning No Relation To Timothy! Hey, Susan, long time, no hear. Can't wait to talk with you at MWC. I'd call but I don't have your phone number. And I've so many projects going on these days that writing letters has practically become a thing of the past, unfortunately.

Everyone: I have a non-SW question, but I'm interested in hearing others' opinions and this is a great forum to reach people. Okay, this is in regards to the movie *Stargate*, which I *loved*, and fully intend to buy a pro copy. But, did it bother anyone else that they used the Egyptian god Ra as the chief "bad guy"? I'm not an expert on Egyptology, but am an enthusiast and have spent a good amount of time reading and researching all things of ancient Egypt. I was always of the opinion that Ra was the good one — the god of the sun, basically benevolent and good. The *really* evil one was Set (or Sekhet, or Sekmet). Any thoughts out there on why they used the wrong god? Or am I wrong about this? I'd like to hear from you.

A. G. Steyn: You've brought up one of my *biggest* Pet Peeves in SW fandom — and lately I've been running into this a lot in my club (F.O.E.) — that is mixing of "Earthisms" with SW. You mentioned catching the phrase of Han doing an "Immelmann" and asked if anyone in that *long ago and far away galaxy* knows a German fighter pilot of the 20th century (Earth). My point, *exactly!* I'm so tired of the current trend to Earth-ize SW! Instead of calling something, for example, chocolate, why not call it "deezle"? Then do a page reference and at the bottom of the page, you say "Tatooine deezle is very close in taste and texture to what we on Earth call chocolate pudding." I enjoy the inventing (by myself and others) of SW terms, to give the Trilogy its own feel.

Also, in response to your comment to Marti Schuller, I've heard (a long time ago...) a decent explanation for how Luke can be 20 at the start of ANH and Leia can be in her teens. Remember, they were raised on separate planets and would have grown up in the time reference of each planet. Therefore, Luke was (18-20?) Tatooine years old, and Leia was (16-19?) Alderaani years old. Translating that to their home world time line, or to a "galactic standard", they'd be the same age.

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Debbie Kittle: You caught Maggie on the TV show *48 Hours*? Get it on tape? If so, *please* bring it to MWC!

Belea Keeney: Sorry, but I have to agree with Barbara Anderson. George *did* give us the SW universe and it *is* his right to establish the rules and parameters of that universe. Ignoring for the moment the fact that he does legally hold the copyrights to everything, keep this in mind. *He* is the one who created it. If he hadn't done all the work to produce the Trilogy, we wouldn't have it at all! You are confusing the selling of the tickets with the creation of the concept. Just because he made money off it, doesn't take away his right to create the laws of his Universe and rule it. Face it, in the SW universe, George Lucas *is* god, and we have to respect his wishes in regards to SW material. He has the legal and the creative right. And George didn't step out of the picture a long time ago. He continued to hold the legal rights throughout his SW sabbatical, even if he produced nothing new.

Sorry if I sound harsh on my opinions of this, but I do have hopes of publishing my own material someday and I know how I'd feel if someone else wanted to take my characters and do whatever they wanted with them. I fully believe in creator's rights. And, of course, the creator makes money off it — that's how he/she makes a living! If it was all for free, nothing would be produced *ever*, and we'd never have known *any* of the great works out there! I say, thank God for George Lucas, and respect the man's wishes, for goodness sake!

Carolyn Golledge: Hey, it's great to have another member of the "Ian Malcolm Fan Club"! Maybe we should get buttons made up!

Ming Wathne: I agree with disliking the use of initials, *i.e.*, FACPOV, with no explanation. Here's a thought (please don't send me a letter bomb, Cheree), perhaps in each issue, Cheree could go through and jot down all such references and in the front or back of the issue give a listing of "abbreviations used in this issue" and give their meanings. ((*Ed*: Perhaps in each issue the letter writers who want to use abbreviations could spell it out the first time and then put it in abbreviations afterwards, like legal documents are done, such as *From a Certain Point of View* ("FACPOV"). This would help newcomers understand and save me time on a chore I don't have time to do!))

And I love your idea of having a costume category of the STAR aWARdS. Actually, we're also going to start giving awards for SW costumes in the cantina on Friday night, making it a masquerade dance. *Everyone* is welcome to wear their costumes and show up. We'll have unannounced judges who will announce the winners at an intermission during the dance.

And also — you're just full of great ideas! — I love the idea of the zine of Fan Pics of MWC! Fantastic! Just make sure all photos are accompanied with complete

names and maybe even a brief note about what's going on. Another fun thing might be to pick out some people, get current photos of them and photos of them as babies and have a section where we can try to match them!

Amanda Palumbo: Hi! It was fun reading about your Trek Con memories and it brought back some of my own. At the same time you were attending the 1973 Int'l ST Con and 1974 Int'l ST Con, I was attending Star Con 73 & 74 in Detroit, MI. These were my first convention experiences and they were a lot of fun. There were discussions on whether Trek would ever come back, and they showed the blooper reels. It was the first time I ever met George Takei, who actually walked up to my friends and me and introduced himself to us — as if he needed to! What a great guy! If you've never met him at a convention, I highly recommend going to a con where he's a guest. ((*Ed*: I second that motion! George is an incredible person. He was a guest at a ST con in Dallas in the 70's and hung around the dealer's room at all hours, schmoozing with the fans. I was working with the Star Trek Welcommittee at that time and wrote him a note thanking him for coming, never expecting an answer. I got back a personal note typed and signed by him thanking us for having him! Then a year later my friends and I were at a con in Tulsa where he was guest. He spotted us and came over and called us by name! Do you suppose we could get him to run for President in '96?))

Judy Yuenger: Many, many condolences on your double loss. It was such a shock to hear about. I hope you are doing well.

Okay, I feel chastised. I agree, we all have a right to our own opinions. But I have to say, I still don't like the books (except for *Truce*). However, let me add that I feel about them pretty much the way I feel about the movie *Highlander 2*. I hated it, *but* ... make a few minor changes, take the Highlander name off, and put it in its own universe, it would have been a fun movie ... on its own. But most fans refuse to accept it as being Highlander. These SW books are much the same, for me at least.

Some fans feel we should like them just because they are SW. Phooey! Just because they are being sold as pro books doesn't necessarily mean they have quality! We should keep in mind that book publishers are not necessarily fans of the show and may not realize the inconsistencies — or even care. And I still much rather see works by, say, Maggie Nowakowska, for one — among many others, to be found in professionally published books than most of the ones who are.

Jennifer Moore: I love the changes in DS9 and I really love the new show, *Voyager*. I've heard a few complaints about Janeway, particularly in regards to her voice, but I think they're nuts! I love her — and I think her voice reminds me a lot of Katharine Hepburn.

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To everyone who will be at MWC: Only three months to go! See you there!

## COMICS CANON

Cheryl Pryor  
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February 26, 1995

Hi, Folks! I'm pushing the deadline again but I'm so glad to have a chance to write I don't care. (Cheree might...) As many of you know, my husband and I bought the run-down used bookstore next to our comic shop last spring. Ever since, we've been in remodeling hell. I missed MWC. I lost a summer somewhere. Last autumn sometime, I emerged blinking in amazement that my world no longer revolved around sorting books.

If Cheree can stand one more mention of Dead Bothans, I'd like to thank them for asking me to all their fun activities even though I could only come to one or two. And barring any disasters, I will be at MWC! Yay!

To Nora Mayers and your comment about the novels being taken as canon, I agree completely. We're seeing a whole wave of people who were into the movies as kids, sometimes really young kids, got out as they outgrew their Kenner playsets, and have gotten back in only because of the novels. They don't know a fanzine from *Starlog* magazine.

Where Trek fandom had David Gerrold's *World of Star Trek* which told all us little neos what we were missing con-wise and zine-wise, SW fandom has been mostly underground. We all exist in the shadow of Lucasfilm guidelines and rumors of "cease and desist" orders.

There are more of these new fans than there are of us. Some of my customers come in chatting SW and how excited they are about the new movies. When I say I just hope the new trilogy doesn't ruin the originals for me, they just look at me funny. "But it's *Star Wars*!"

On the totally prurient side, I loved *Courtship* because Luke was one hot sexy Jedi. The parts that were stupid, I just skimmed. I did like the idea of Fabio as Han's rival.

Um, Z. P., are you actually referring to yourself as Yoda? Let me see ... short, inverted grammar, check. So how come when I refer to you as Yoda, you threaten to kill me? Whine, whine...

I hate the babysitter for the twins, too. I don't care how busy they are, "our" Han and Leia would raise their own kids. Plus I hate Winter (the character). I really wanted her to die in some disgusting way in the Zahn books.

Marti Schuller: Interesting point about Luke not

sensing any good in Vader until the truth came out. Wouldn't it be neat if he also sensed things through their newly-created Force bonds? I'd love to know what sort of images that might flash through his brain that would lead him to say maybe Pop should be redeemed.

Oh, hey, don't feel isolated by not living close enough to other fans. It's three hours easy for me for any of ~~Debbie K.'s hare-brained escapades~~ fannish events. If you ever come up this way, there's lots to do — including a visit to the Shrine of Planet Hollywood.

You are writing that story of Ben slipping off to Mos Eisley for a little congenial company, aren't you?

Debbie Kittle: The Herculoids? Bleh! Gimme Space Ghost any day. I don't see the Herculoids with their own talk show on the Cartoon Network.

Hey, did you see — Marti S. invited all of us to her house for widescreen viewing. I'm not doing anything the week after MWC...

A. G. Steyn: Boy, I like the way you think. So Luke is groping Darthie's thigh, hmm? I've heard of comforting the dying, but that seems a little extreme.

Who's got a copy of Mark licking bosoms on Howard Stern's show? My husband actually likes that show and we missed that one! Argh...

Belea Keeney: Welcome! Where did you get that excellent name?

Your fanfic faves echo mine exactly. Though I admit that when I actually met Veronica Wilson, I didn't put her name with her stories until it was too late to prostrate my unworthy self before her. Another fannish opportunity lost... Carol H-S has achieved goddess status in my own personal SW religion. (Just a movie, my butt...)

Loved your casting idea. Dolph Lundgren — dubbed by James Earl Jones, of course. Just imagine if they'd used him on ROTJ for the unmasking. (Still dubbed, natch). Maybe aged just a tad. Brr... I'm shivering just thinking about it.

Louise Turner: Oooh, love Bail as a villain. Leia would need some intense therapy after that revelation. I always hated his character in the radio shows, especially that annoying laugh.

Amanda Palumbo: Great to meet you at Eclecticon, albeit briefly Sunday afternoon. I'll get those Igneous Rock t-shirts done real soon now.

Enjoyed your ST memories. Little ol' Richmond got exactly one con that decade but we lived on the memories for years afterward.

Mary Jo Fox: I'm blushing! Lord Vader's #1 groupie? Moi? I'd like to thank the Academy and of course my parents...

Seriously (sorta), about the pro novels... I admit I was dismayed that they were keeping to one continuity. Necessary perhaps but that means they're all based on the

comics, *Dark Empire*. Luke falls to the Dark Side, effectively negating the entire trilogy. While I liked the story when I read it, I never expected it to become part of the "canon". Now, we're stuck with it.

That's what I'm afraid will happen with the new movies. Suppose Luke and Leia are the product of rape? Or eugenics? What if Mrs. Skywalker is a bimbo? I'd never look at the trilogy the same way again.

Well, I'm in editville enough as it is. See everyone at MWC. (You don't know how good it is to say that!)

From the dark side...

## LOVING SW HISTORY

Michelle Malkin  
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Here's my letter for SE#39 and 40. Thanks for giving me some extra time to get it together, since I got the zines late. There was so much to comment on that I really needed the extra time. I hope that this doesn't get to be too long, since I'll be responding to some remarks that don't deal strictly with SW. Here goes!

Maggie Nowakowska: I'm loving your history of SW letterzines and wonder if you'll continue it with other zines besides *Jundland Wastes* and *Alderaan*. I hope that what we've seen so far is just a glimpse of your entire SW history and that we'll eventually see the entire thing under one cover.

Being one of the people at the shared table, I well remember the incident of the angry new fan. I still think of it as "the M&M Affair," since these new fans thought that a bowl of candy would open all doors (whatever that actually means). A friendly gesture, yes, but walking up to people and introducing yourself goes a lot further.

*Alderaan*, *Comlink*, and *Jundland Wastes* — what memories they bring back. SE is terrific, as far as SW is concerned, but I really miss *Comlink*. I wish there was an all purpose fantasy and science fiction letterzine — one that wouldn't mind if writers occasionally went off on a tangent about mysteries, histories or whatever, but was basically F&SF, whether it be TV, movie, written fan or pro.

My dislike of stories in which any of the main SW characters die was a personal one which I extended to my zine *Kessel Run*. I always figured that if such a story was good enough, it would find a home in another zine, therefore I wasn't affecting a writer's chance of getting printed. Besides, if an editor can't control what goes into her or his zine, what's the point of putting out a zine?

I remember the anti-Leia sentiment in the early days of SW, too. It got so bad, in fact, that I remember people

being afraid to comment on it — thinking it was the majority opinion. After a while, I got so disgusted by the whole thing and especially the virulent anti-Leia sentiment in *Against the Sith* #9, that I asked anyone interested to write in about why they *liked* Leia for a rebuttal in *Kessel Run* #1. Eight of the replies were printed in the zine. I won't take responsibility for ending the anti-Leia screaming that had been going on, but after this rebuttal came out, it got a lot quieter.

In reading over my old letters in *Jundland Wastes*, I found that I seemed to have believed that Senator Palpatine and the Emperor weren't the same person. Somewhere along the way — I can't say when — I changed my mind. I have for a long time believed that Palpatine was an evil Force-sensitive who coerced and murdered his way to power. Not having read any of the recent SW books yet (I have several, including the first book of the Han Solo Corellia trilogy which contains a chronological timeline of all the books out so far), I don't know if Palpy's background has been filled in or not. If not, the next SW movie trilogy should be very interesting about this mystery.

Oh, my, do I remember the furor over "Satisfaction Guaranteed". In my case, the title did not at all fit my opinion of at least half the story. This was a shame, since up until this last story, I'd loved the entire series. But, what I remember even more was a general fannish fear of admitting a dislike of this story in public for fear of being ridden out of SW fandom on a rail by the authors' supporters. I've never seen anything like it from then til now. I wrote one of those critiques, and I stand by it. I'll let you know if I get any poison pen letters at this late date.

Yup, I was branded a "Luke lover", too, in spite of Han being my personal favorite SW character and all of my stories centering on Han. My crime — not hating Luke for having the nerve to simply exist in the same universe as Han. Silly me.

Maggie, will you be doing similar articles on *Jundland, Too and Soundrel*? Good luck!

Here's a chuckle. In going over my copies of *Alderaan*, I found a letter in the very first issue (1978) in which a fan from California was of the opinion that SW would never become a true fandom like ST no matter how many fan stories were written or pieces of artwork done because *you can't get involved with it enough!* I wonder if he was still around for all the noninvolved fun of the next several years. I'd say that 18 years so far is a pretty good track record for a fandom that none of us could get involved with.

Carolyn Cooper: Lovely typo (I hope) in your SE39 letter. Did you mean a "mortgage burning party" and not a "mortgagor burning party"?! Hopefully, Cheree and Randy aren't into self-immolation! ((Ed: No scorch marks

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*here! We didn't burn anything, actually. We put the papers in the bank safe box so we can take them out in later life and smirk in satisfaction.)*

Some zine eds have been using the movie rating system on the flyers for years. I've seen this in various fandoms.

Susan Zahn: If no one contacted you about taping you a copy of the Science Fiction Channel SW trilogy hosted by Carrie Fisher, I have it and can dub. Let me know if you still need it.

A. G. Steyn: Have you seen Mark Hamill on *SeaQuest DSV* yet? He played the part in a very understated manner, like he did with Luke in ROTJ. I think he did a very nice job, even if his true identity was obvious sooner than it should have been.

Nah, Yoda wasn't Luke and Leia's mom. An Ewok was. They had the babies depilated as soon as they were born and gave them teeny-weeny nose jobs, and they were fine.

Liz Sharpe: What's it take to become a Dead Bothan? I can lay on the floor and rot along with the best of them.

A Tail of Five Kitties: Lord Peter Whimseycat went out one evening and didn't come back. The folks on the corner told me that a car had gotten him on his way home and I identified him. That was a rough week. Jenna, my Abyssinian tabby, kept looking for him and Cally, my half-Siamese, half something else, kept looking relieved. Then Duke Denver Whimseycat, my black and white stray, decided to move in. He stayed for a few days, then disappeared for a week during the worst part of the winter. I was afraid that he had been killed by the cold. While Denver was gone, Eric Silverpuss showed up half-starved and, after a few days, he moved in (supposedly in Denver's place). Of course, that was when Denver decided to return with his left front paw sliced open. This ensued a rapid visit to the vet to treat his paw, rearrange his kitten-making machinery, and a bunch of shots. In a few weeks, he'll go back to the vet to get his last two shots and have his teeth cleaned. Denver is a tough old cat who has had a very rough life, but he is adjusting to finally being an indoor cat. Eric, thank goodness, was already fixed and declawed. He is a handsome young cat with silver and black stripes and big green eyes with black rims and white fur around them. He looks like an ancient Egyptian. So, I now have four cats. Enough, already!

Marti Schuller: I agree that the talk between Luke and Leia on Endor was essential, but it felt wrong to me, too. Leia's lack of reaction to learning that Luke was her brother and, by extension, that Darth Vader was her father felt wrong. Her telling Luke to run away felt wrong. Wrong, wrong, wrong! It could have been handled a lot better. I just can't imagine Leia telling anyone to run away from anything when she would never even consider such a thing for herself. And, if learning that DV was his dad

had poor Luke screaming his head off, Leia should have had some kind of reaction like: "You're my brother, Vader's your father, I'm your sister... um, er ... pardon me while I pick up my teeth..."

Pat Nussman: Not only don't I feel that Han is bigoted against droids in general, I don't even think he's bigoted against C3PO. Threepio is just so prissy that I think Han simply gets a kick out of picking on him. If he disliked him so much, he wouldn't have bothered to come back to make sure he's made it onto the *Falcon* when the ramp started going up in TESB. I do admit that no one seems to place much faith in Threepio, not just Han, and that this has proven to be a mistake. When will they all learn that prissy doesn't necessarily mean dumb?

Maggie Nowakowska: Hello again. I guess I'm more JAM than CML, but include both in how I relate to SW or any other fandom. The three fandoms that have affected me the most in my life have been *Star Trek*, *Star Wars* and *Blake's 7*. But, while I prefer to delve mostly into the serious sides of each, there has to be a little humor in there somewhere to save me from drowning.

If we are dividing into camps over moral issues again, then I think I'm partly at fault. If so, I apologize. I have the feeling that before I started writing to SE again after a long absence, no one had been discussing such subjects as slash, and I reopened an old can of worms. If I'd known the whole round of "I'm right, you're wrong" would start up again, I'd have never brought it up. I stand by everything I've said on the subject, but won't get into a debate on the subject after this letter. I'll gladly discuss the subject in private letters and may occasionally recommend a story I think some SE readers would enjoy in these pages. I will say this — if someone wants to form a "camp" because they disagree so strongly with another person's opinion, then they are not truly a fan of anything but their own opinion.

And, as long as I'm already wearing my soapbox on my head, I'd also like to apologize to Tim and Gerald for upsetting them with my comments on men two issues back. If I sounded anti-male, it wasn't meant that way and came out stronger than intended. More than anything else, I was trying to get across a kind of tit for tat — to see how the men would react to having the same nonsense thrust at them that women have for centuries. Well, I found out, all right. The reactions were anger and dismay. The same reactions that women have. And, in being such a smartass, I may have made enemies where none were sought. Sorry, guys. You were right, Gerald. It was simplistic and it didn't help much.

Louise Turner: When I was at Stonehenge last September, we were only allowed to walk halfway around it, not all the way around it like I could four years earlier. And, of course, the ropes keep you from the stones

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completely. Soon, you won't be able to go there at all. It will be totally closed to the public. And, while you can still go through all four fields (carefully avoiding the sheep poop) of standing stones at Avebury, even they will eventually be closed to the public, too. I'm glad that I got there when I did and have tons of photos for the memories.

Gerald Crotty: I agree that some of the battle scenes with the Ewoks were pretty silly, though there were bits of reality that shine through. For instance, there is the scene in which one of the Ewoks gets badly wounded and is groaning in pain. By the time his friend gets to him, he is obviously dead, and his friend cries over his body. And I loved the idea of using rolling logs to knock the big mechanical monsters off their tootsies. But, the bit with Paploo hanging onto the handlebars of the speederbike was just plain dumb.

Is *Dark Empire* accepted as part of the timeline after the movies along with the books? I just bought a copy of the *Dark Empire* collection after being minus one of the original comics all this time. I also bought the *Jedi Collected* which seems to consist of only two stories, though I enjoyed both of them. If the Dark Horse comics and the novels are now being accepted as canon, then a lot of information will become available much faster than I ever expected.

Jennifer Moore: A few years back, I wrote a little Ewok story called "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" which appeared in *On a Clear Day You Can See Dagobah* in 1986. In this story, the Ewoks actually did eat Han, Luke and Leia and then got blown to smithereens by Lord Vader for their trouble. Tsk. I also had a Darkside Luke kill his weak old daddy in one story and Darth Vader take over his son's young uninjured body in another. Long live alternate universes! I was on a Darkside kick at the time, thanks to the CoF awakening me to many wonderful alternate story ideas. I even wrote a long (thankfully!) forgotten gem of a poem called "Looky, Looky, a Darkside Wookiee". (Or was it "Lookee, Lookeee..." Who cares?).

Barbara Anderson: Can't agree with you more that anything outside of the three (so far) movies is not a waste, especially fan writing, art and zine editing. Just think of all the writers and artists in SW and other fandoms who have gone on to become professionals, thanks to their fannish beginnings (why don't some of you write in to back me up? I'm sure many of the new fen would love to hear about how you made the jump from fan to pro. Cheree, how about someone doing an article on this? Think there's a pro fan who'd be interested in writing one?) ((*Ed: Fine with me. Anyone interested in doing this?*)) Anyway, to just limit ourselves to discussing only the movies would very quickly become very ... limiting? Still, I don't think that Yvette really meant that the tapes, etc., dealing with SW are really a waste, but that she only accepts the movies as

canon. I wish I knew for sure about the books and comics! And if GL does include them as canon, I can see fan fur flying in all directions.

I saw part of the Howard Stern show that Mark Hamill was on only because a friend called to tell me he was on it. As expected, it was gross and stupid. (This was the TV show, not the radio show.) My unasked for opinion of Howard Stern is that he's an insult to pond scum.

Carolyn Golledge: I'm hoping to have a computer by some time in April or May (whenever my income tax return shows up.) I even have a bunch of tapes to teach me probably out of date programs. That's okay. As long as I can do my stories on screen and my mail by e-mail, I'll be happy. I used to do at least three letters a day. Now, I'm lucky if I do three a month. And, I haven't written a story in over two years.

About parties and such — you know you're welcome to visit historic Philly, my tape collection and my felines. I'd even arrange one of my weekend bashes if you did visit.

Nora Mayers: Don't worry about that new fan not reading zines now that she has the novels to read. If she runs out of books, I'm sure she'll go back to the zines fast enough. Besides, I often get the feeling that a new ST novel hits the shelves every three seconds, but this hasn't cut down on the number of Trekkers reading Trekzines. I doubt that it'll ever be any different in SW fandom. Anyway, I wouldn't consider anyone who gives up all zines for a few books a terrible loss to any fandom. And, let's face it, there will always be tons more fringe fen than actifén (active fans), though I have a feeling that SW fandom will very shortly be getting a huge shot in the arm what with all the books and the coming movies. This can only mean more zines, new fan writers and artists. I'm looking forward to it!

Marti Schuller: Kenobi and Yoda remind me of Hindu mystics who go off alone in order to starve and join whatever god or part of the universe they believe in. The big difference here is that both Ben and Yoda seem to be waiting for something. If you have a goal in mind then being alone doesn't necessarily have to lead to death or insanity. Anyway, maybe they have long conversations with other Jedi who have rejoined the Force. If Ben could talk with Luke after he shuffled off this mortal coil, maybe Yoda spoke with his mentor, Joe Jedi.

I love the title "Hoth Days, Tatooine Nights."

Pat Grant: Han refers to Chewie as "he". Han ought to know.

Brian Harris: Jedi move an entire planet? Heck, even Yoda seemed a bit pooped by lifting Luke's ship out of the swamp. Maybe a whole gang of them could get together to prevent an asteroid from striking a helpless planet, but a whole planet ... nah. I'd really have to think about that, too.

Tim Blaes: I haven't seen Phil Foglio's *XXXenophile*. Thanks for telling me about it. I've been a fan of his since his ST fan days.

All Those Who Asked About My Trip: This is probably where Cheree starts to do some serious editing. I'll try to keep it short, but we went to a *lot* of places. Of course, we didn't stay in any of them for very long, but you can't have everything. We stayed in a nice little Victorian style hotel in London called the Charles Dickens and fanned out for the entire two weeks from there. My favorite place to visit was St Albans with its 1,000+ year old abbey cathedral, Roman Britain museum (with original mosaic floors dug up from Roman villas in the area), the cemetery full of Celtic crosses next to the cathedral, the ruins of a small Roman amphitheater and an active dig going on along one side of the cathedral. *Twelfth Night* at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-Upon-Avon surprised me by being both funny and tragic. The next day, my friend Karen and I nearly had twin heart attacks from climbing up the tower stairs at Warwick Castle. The steps were worn in the center from centuries of use, and there's only a rope along the wall to hang onto. I had trouble going up the stairs and Karen had trouble going down. This castle is huge and has a gigantic medieval dining room with a long table, suits of armor for men and horses, and animal heads all over the walls. Other wings of the castle are done in late Victorian and medieval styles, plus there's a really yucky dungeon complete with instruments of torture. The wax figures in the rooms were designed by the folks from Madame Tussaud's.

Stonehenge and Avebury I've already mentioned. We went to Bath to join the tour and stayed long enough to revisit lovely Bath Cathedral with its angels climbing a ladder to heaven on one side of the main entrance and another ladder back down to earth on the other side. Yorkminster in York was incredible — all stained glass, statues and wall carvings. There were lots of famous people that I'd never heard of buried there or in raised crypts. The ruins of the old church nearby included a peahen who strutted around as though she owned the place and had a peachick in tow. Thanks to the weekly railstrikes (two different days each week!), we only had a few hours in Liverpool. It was just enough time to zoom through the Beatles Museum and raid the Beatles store. Someday, I'd like to go back and actually see the city. The part outside the big shopping mall in the center of town, that is. It's not just a dreary seaport town anymore.

We shared the train back to London with a zillion people returning from the games in Scotland. Air was at a premium. We stayed in Wales for two days in a little town near Caernarvon. In two fast days, we toured Caernarvon Castle and rode tourist trains up Mt. Snowden (it rained but we were the only ones who took photos going

up and down the mountain. Lucky thing, because you couldn't see a darn thing at the top) and partway around Lake Padarn.

In London, we saw *The Canterbury Tales* at the Garrick Theatre, caught the Buckingham Palace tour in the second of its five years, toured the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Natural History Museum, toured Westminster Abbey (and I located John Andre's grave before anyone else, including the guide. Andre was an English officer hanged as a spy during the Revolutionary War.). We tried and failed to get tickets to a concert at the Royal Albert Hall but all the shows we wanted to see were sold out.

That was our two weeks. I wanna go back! Even if Karen did come home with a torn leg muscle and I came down with the chicken pox the day after we got home. My supervisor at work was almost in tears when I called in to tell her I had to be out another two weeks. This was one vacation I'll definitely *never* forget!

That is definitely it for now. I'm pooped! It took me a week to go through both issues and pick out what to comment on and three days to type this up. And now to bed. Zzzzzzzzz....

## YEAR OF TOLERANCE

Louise Turner  
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January, 1996

Greetings, exalted ones... Well, yet another year has come and gone. Life is hectic, what with work, thesis and horse, so I hope I get this letter sent off in time... Can I just make one last follow-up to the Great Debate which came to a head last year: 1995 is UN Year of Tolerance, so let's just show the world how to behave, shall we? Because it's damn obvious that the rest of the world isn't exactly giving us a good role-model on matters of tolerance, etc.

Gerald Crotty: You would, wouldn't you? Point out the discrepancies in the intolerance argument, I mean! You have a point, I suppose. But since intolerant people will by their nature be intolerant of me, then I might as well return the compliment.

About Wedge's alien girlfriend... Dodgy stuff there, I think. I find SW very realistic in its portrayal of a futuristic society, because even though questions of difference in colour and religion appear to be largely irrelevant *within* the human race (the exception being the predominance of white middle-class males in the Empire),

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mixing between species seems largely taboo. Unfortunately, Wedge's alien girlie seems to be rather an exception to this rule. This constitutes a departure from the human realism which I find so good about SW, and a step closer to one of the aspects of the ST universe which I find extremely difficult to comprehend. Mixing of species in such a fashion is not physiologically sensible — if there are kids born of the union they will more than likely be sterile, and they will naturally be *very* grateful to Mummy and Daddy for giving them such a raw deal. The only place where an implied sexual mingling of species is apparent is in Jabba the Hutt's place, and that is supposed to be an example of decadence, anyway. Maybe Anderson's trying to make some kind of point there, but I feel that instead it was done as some kind of sensationalism. And making an alien an Imperial weapons specialist? No way! Following the White Middle-class Male rule demonstrated above, I don't think there's any chance the Empire will allow some alien chick to be messing around with weapons-systems. I haven't read the books yet, and from what I've heard from those who have, I am in no hurry to do so. I think I'd rather read the entire contents of the British Library first.

Which does not apply to Vonda MacIntyre's book. I haven't got around to it yet, but I'm looking forward to it.

Nora Mayers: Um, I think you've just put me completely off *Courtship*. The character assassination of Han sounds truly awful. Whimpering??! I think his reaction would be more in the order of "Ow! \*I@fA\*\$O! That A;E%\$\$(@!!!" Another complete body-swerve is recommended there, I reckon.

Retuming to the JAM/CML divide that Maggie highlighted, then maybe the ultimate JAM-my's are the professional writers. Now they really seem to treat the universe as one gigantic toybox! And I think that if they're getting paid good money to write this stuff, then they could at least put a little bit of thought into it. [Please note: there is a fundamental contradiction surfacing in me last time I declared myself a JAM-my... If this is the case, then why on earth do I keep making these knee-jerk reactions against the official material? Methinks I do take all of this a little too seriously...]

Belea Keeney: Welcome to the fold! And may I loudly agree with what you had to say, re your comment to Barbara Anderson. And I don't think your words expressed naive sentiments at all — rather a wry commentary on something which we all might forget, namely that the universe is a fantastic concept and great fun to explore, yes, but its prime function is that of a commercial entity. The latest material is quite clearly being produced with the intention of making dollars upper-most. The universe we read about in the post-1988 material is *not* that of George Lucas — it has been privatized and deregulated. I consider the current material to be written in the SW RPG universe

— not the film universe — and that is why I don't really like it very much. I've been given some stuff to read from the Internet by some netsurfing friends, and one of the most interesting things I saw was an article by a journalist from Canada who was bewailing the current state of the SW universe. He argued that your US Energizer bunny advert can in fact be seen as a metaphor for the way in which SW is now marketed. It is being presented afresh for the Nintendo generation, which is why older fans are feeling increasingly isolated. It was nice piece of commentary, so if anyone knows the guy who wrote it, can they please offer him my support?

I also read a great book last year. A book of heroism, suffering, brutality, political intrigue, etc. No, not the latest work by Zahn, or even a tale by Golledge or Campbell. It was in fact Tacitus, "The Annals of Imperial Rome", and the first chapter was *so* relevant to the SW universe. I got a tiny shiver down the spine when I read the bit about Augustus' ascension to power, and the references to the popularity of "the new order" (their words...) in the Provinces. Wow!!

Catherine Churko: On matters historical... Um, forgive my ignorance, but what ancient dwelling-places?? I haven't heard of anything that recent. I'm afraid my area of study is Bronze Age metalwork of south-east England, so perhaps that isn't surprising. Tell me more, please! And I hope you're feeling better now!

Tim Blaes: More matters historical... I love "Carhenge!" I think it's great! No, I think it is *just* possible for an archaeologist to gain access to the original, after having orders signed in triplicate, lost, buried in soft peat for three months, etc. Only the visiting time is something like 3 am in the morning...

About the xeroxing. I really don't think that \$25 is too much to ask for a 'zine that's about 160 pages in length, since the price is inclusive of airmail postage. However, I may have to put the price up by a few dollars soon, because my one difficulty is monetary exchange. My bank willingly takes US cheques made out to me in dollars, but has just recently pushed up the price of processing these by about \$8! All is not lost, because I'm currently shopping around for a better deal, and I'm sure I'll be able to organize something. At the moment, the more orders I get, the easier it is for me, but when there's only a few I've got problems, because some banks charge by the transaction and not by the individual cheque. So much for the world economy ...

Zinelegging: There's so much controversy going on here that I felt I just *had* to say something. I'm really in two minds about all of this. Personally, as a writer, I would prefer to have my work read and circulated, even if that involved fans sneaking xeroxes of stories, etc. Text is text, after all. *However* (and this is a very big *however!*) as

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an editor I can understand the objections. Running a 'zine is a financial burden, and it's only through taking orders that this kind of burden can be eased (particularly if, like me, you have about eight or nine foreign contributors to pay for... ). Losing orders in this way is a blow to the finances, believe me, and jeopardizes future issues. In addition, there are the sensibilities of the artists to consider. Text may be text, but the reproduction of the art is something which suffers through successive generations, and it's just not fair for the artists to have to put up with that! As for dealers making a fast buck out of circulating pirated 'zines, well. I don't really think there's anything more to be said on the matter — only that it stinks!

But, if people genuinely can't afford to buy all the 'zines that are going, should we really be giving them the cold-shoulder because they're copying stuff which they wouldn't otherwise be buying anyway? I mean, we do our best to keep costs down as much as we can so that the price is kept low and the circulation is maximized and if people are making illicit copies then at least they're interested enough to do so. It's a difficult problem, and one which I don't think has any real satisfactory answer.

Maggie N.: Your continuing history of SW fandom is being eagerly followed. Only thing is, I feel like all these great debates now occurring in SE are a question of

comparative newcomers like me eagerly re-inventing the wheel for the twelfth time...

And now, a general plea. Has anybody heard of an artist named Stephanie Hawks? She did some illos in *Kessel Run IV* and she's brilliant. She seems to have vanished. Does anyone know where she is, and whether she's still in fandom? Any information would be greatly appreciated ...

Dead Bothan Debbie, et al. You lucky people! To be part of such a mob of lively, likeminded people, *and* to have a snazzy name for your group! I'm jealous! In fact, I think I'll bring Squire and myself over on the next plane to your neck of the woods and move out there permanently so I can achieve Dead Bothan status.

Golly! What a short letter! One final word: all contributor's copies of *Bad Feeling* should now have reached their new owners. If you have contributed and have not yet received yours, then please let me know ASAP. This message is aimed particularly at Fiorenzo, who should have received Paola's copy. Catriona wrote to you once, I wrote to you in September and have not as yet heard from you, so I'm not sure whether any of our letters arrived. If you have heard from me recently, then just ignore this, but otherwise, get in touch soon, will you?

That's all folks, and Happy Star-Wars-ing!

### Eclecticon Attendees



Back row: Mary Jo Fox, Lynn ?, Jennifer Moore, Judy Yuenger, Arwen Rosenbaum, Donna ?

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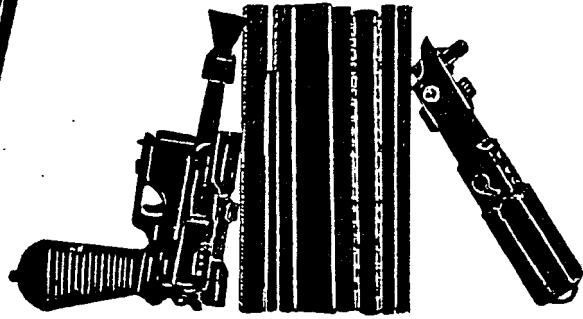
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**PURSUIT OF THE NASHTAH** by Nora Mayers. It was not Luke's youth that made Genral Khala Jhen Rhessa dislike him as much as it was his own fear of the unknown. Rhessa was far more secure with a strong arsenal than with old superstitions and he found the idea of the Jedi as a major source of the Republic's protection a frightening concept. Somehow Skywalker had to be stopped. Send SASE for price information to Hill Valley Press, c/o Nora Mayers, 5485 Columbia Road, #523, Columbia, MD 21044.

**REMOTE CONTROL** #3. Star Award winner for Best Multimedia Zine. Includes fiction by Knights (*Rat Patrol*), Gillilan (*Simon & Simon*), Florian (SW), Webster (Indiana Jones), DeVries (*Young Riders*), Lane (*Alien Nation*), Holt and Grigsby (WOTW), McCurry (*Buck Rogers*), Hicks (UNCLE), Paulson (*Real Ghostbusters*), Wilson (*Magnum*), Karmell (*Professionals*), Martin (*Hawaii 5-0*), Wells (*Wild, Wild West*). Poetry by Matoris and Batterby. Illustrations by Florian, Lane, Kirby, Larimer, and Glenn. Laser printed, photocopied, 218 pp., GBC bound. \$22.00 priority mail (insured), \$25.00 to Canada, \$30.00 UK, small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510. RC#1 (Fan Q and Star Awards winner) and #2 (Fan Q winner) are also available for the above prices. SASE for detailed flyer.

**SOUTHERN SEVEN** #8. B7 genzine full of all your favorite authors and artists. Color cover by Leah Rosenthal. 180+ pages of reduced type, spiral bound. Stories by Dunham, Brown, Green, Brothers, Augustine, Mailander, and much more. \$18.00. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. If ordering overseas, please send an SAE + 2 IRCs first in order to obtain your correct postage cost. Always include a SASE with inquiries. On-line address: Ashton7@aol.com.

**SOUTHERN SEVEN** #9. Chock full of fun, including a

Katrina Larson Hellhound shoppers catalog. Color cover by Leah Rosenthal. 190+ pages of reduced, columnar type, spiral bound. Stories by Karen Yost, Linda Terrell, Jennifer Smallwood, Dee Beetem, Colette Bolech & Kathy Martin, Linda Knights, Donna wilson, Jane Carnall, Sherri Fillingham, and more. Artwork by Andersen, Rosenthal, Morgan, Lovette, and more. \$19.00. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. If ordering overseas, please send an SAE + 2 IRCs first in order to obtain your correct postage cost. Always include a SASE with inquiries. On-line address: Ashton7@aol.com.

**STARNODES.** A collection of SW stories by Yvette Ghilan. Contents include "Shore Leave," "Destiny's Knell," "Meeting with an Old Man," "One Night on Endor," "Genesis," and "To Catch a Skywalker." Computer printed. Bound in cardboard covered with sturdy adhesive vinyl. Price, including postage (registered airmail): \$25.00. For details, write to: Yvette Ghilan, P.O. Box 1827, 57112 Ramat Gan, Israel.

**STAR WARS BIBLIOGRAPHY.** Have you ever wondered what MM zine has a SW story that you wanted to read? Have you ever wondered if an author had done further stories? Now there is a place to find that iformation. The STAR WARS BIBLIOGRAPHY is available in two versions - listings by zines and listings by author. \$6 each or \$10 for both by mail. Please contact: Judith G. Yuenger, 901 Meadowcrest Road, LaGrange Park, IL 60525-1530. [Purchasers of the SW Bibliography at MWC: While doing the new updated Author's version, I discovered (much to my dismay) several whopping mistakes. New pages have been printed up and are available free to you if you send me a note requesting them.]

**STRAIGHT BLAKE'S** #1 (reprint): The long out of print B7 hetero adult zine is going for a second publication and will be completely reformatted and printed with laser masters. SB#1 features stories over 150 pages of delicious adult stories about Avon, Vila and the rest by Liz Sharpe, Pat Nussman, Susan Matthews and more, with a "dominant male" cover by Karen River. Projected press date is Visions (November, 1994). If you're interested, SASE or e-mail Pat Nussman, 1612 Evergreen St., Sebring, FL 33870. Internet: p.nussman@genie.geis.com.

**THE FARTHEST FRONTIER** #1 includes Classic Trek stories from Baudoin, Graham, Lee, Sodaro, and Smithson; TNG fiction from Ames, Benoit, Chapple, Morris, and a novella by Cottrell; poems and filks by Bloebaum, Goldstein, McMillan and Stone. Cover by Myers, interior art by Hebert, Humprhey, and Kenealy; cartoons by Miles.

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Photocopied, GBC bound. \$22.00 priority mail (insured), \$25.00 to Canada, \$29.00 UK, small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

**THE NEXUS CHRONICLES.** A collection of all *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*-related fiction from the Nexus Cycle, exploring the development of the relationship between Chip Morton and Lynn Murtagh. Written by Kathryn Agel. \$10.00 in person, \$14.00 priority mail (insured), \$16.00 Canada (US funds only); \$19.00 UK. Make checks payable to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

**THE ORMAND FACTOR.** Volume One of a two-volume post-ROTJ novel by Louise Turner, illustrated by Gerald Crotty. As recommended by Campbell and Dutech in SE #34! Join Wedge Antilles and Luke Skywalker as they struggle against the remnants of the Imperial forces in a race to discover the truth behind old spacer's rumors of an alien power source in the Outer Rim. For a detailed plot synopsis and costs, please send an SAE/International Reply Coupon to: Louise Turner, 89 St. Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland, PA11 3JD, Great Britain. Copies will be 180 pp. in length, laser-printed and photocopied, and spiral bound. Available from December 1993, with Volume 2 to follow early in 1994.

**THE RENEGADE AND THE ROGUE.** One shot zine by Martha Wells. SASE for information and price to Ming Wathne, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

**VOICES.** The collected SW poetry of Yvette Ghilan. 44 poems in the voices of Luke, Leia, Han, Obi-Wan, Darth Vader, the Emperor and "X", Luke and Leia's mother. Computer printed, bound in cardboard covered in sturdy adhesive vinyl. Price, including postage (registered airmail): \$15.00. For details, write to: Yvette Ghilan, P.O. Box 1827, 57112 Ramat Gan, Israel.

**WE GOT ONE!** The first issue of our *Real Ghostbusters* zine includes fiction by Paulson, Nickell, Beetem, Dickerson, Morris, Van Fossen, and Riddle. Illustrations by Riddle, Howarth, and Van Fossen. Special art portfolio by Schreiber. Cover by Walsh. Laser printed, photocopied, GBC bound. \$16.00 priority mail (insured), \$18.00 to Canada, \$20.00 UK, small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

**WHO'S SCRUFFY LOOKIN'?** is a new SW zine now looking for submissions. Stories, poetry and filks about Han Solo are being solicited. Stories may be set in any

timeframe from pre-ANH to post-ROTJ. SASE for information or submissions guidelines to Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

**ZINE SCENE.** Back issues. Sample copies/back issues of Zine Scene are currently available from May 1992 and May 1993. \$3.00 each or \$5.00 for both. New issues, when available, are \$5.00 each. I am also accepting submissions of reviews (in any fandoms) and articles for publication in future issues. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. If ordering overseas, please send an SAE + 2 IRCs first in order to obtain your correct postage cost. Always include a SASE with inquiries. On-line address: Ashton7@aol.com.

## **COMING SOON TO A GALAXY NEAR YOU**

**A TREMOR IN THE FORCE** #9. Now open for submissions. Material already accepted from Veronica Wilson, Marti Schuller, Mary Jo Fox, Wanda Lybarger and Donna Frayser. Probable publication date: MWC 1996. SASE for submission guidelines. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

**BELOW THE SURFACE** #8. *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* zine due out January 1994. Now soliciting fiction and artwork. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

**BELOW THE SURFACE** #9. *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* zine due out May 1994. Now soliciting fiction and artwork. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Ct, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

**CHRONICLES OF THE HOUSE OF ALDERAAN** #4 now open for submissions. SASE for detailed submission guidelines. Submission deadline: Oh, why not December 10, 1993? Susan Deborah Smith, Pisces Pig, Ltd., 3538 Mentone Avenue #3, Los Angeles, CA 90034-4820.

**ECHO THREE** #2. Open for submissions until January 15, 1995. Toons, filks, fiction, art, poems sought. Keep it Luke and PG13. Humor encouraged. SASE or simply sub Kym August, PO Box 1003, Long Beach, NY 11561, or Amanda Palumbo, PO Box 397, Lake Peekskill, NY 10537.

**FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW** #6. Once more into the breach! It's the "family values" issue. I'm looking for some good stories and art dealing with our heroes and their childhoods, children, family relationships (maybe Han & Leia's wedding?), etc. As always, FACPOV prefers upbeat, positive pieces with our heroes as a prominent part, but I'll

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look at well-written dark drama. I'm shooting for a spring printing, so I'll try to be prompt with revision requests. SASE Carolyn Cooper, Whine Press, P. O. Box 66244, Houston, TX 77266.

**I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SMELL!** A new zine planning a 1995 MediaWest debut is looking for story submissions and artists willing to do some illustrations. We are basically a comedy/light hearted adventure zine (with a name like that what else could we be!!!) but we won't say no to any 'good' story even if it isn't a comedy. Please contact: Judith G. Yuenger, 901 Meadowcrest Road, LaGrange Park, IL 60525-2530 or Marti Schuller, 415 SE Annette, Lee's Summit, MO 64063-3403.

**I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS!** Issue #1 is now available, with stories by Campbell and Turner, Dutech, Florian, Golledge, Gutierrez, Schuller and others! Plus poems by Wilson, and artwork by Churko, Crotty, Florian, Gutierrez, Pearce, etc. The zine is 160 pages in length, laser-printed, photocopied and comb-bound. Copies are available for \$25 or £15 (price inclusive of mailing) from Louise Turner, 89 St. Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland, PA11 3JD, Great Britain. Prices quoted are for US mailing only -- for all other countries please write (including an I.R.C.) for details.

**IMPERIUM** #5 is now open for submissions of fiction, art, poetry and filks. For more information on guidelines and all that, SASE Arwen Rosenbaum, 605 West End Avenue, Apt. GF, New York, NY 10024-1608, or via e-mail to arwenr@aol.com.

**ONLY HOPE** #2 is now accepting submissions of art, fiction, poetry and 'toons. Publication date set for July/Aug. '94. And we are looking for the unique, unusual, and imaginative! For submission guidelines, please contact Cheryl DeLuca, 4181 Rockwood Rd., Mississauga, Ont. Canada L4W 1L6, or Tammy Olsen, Box 153, Benton Road, North Haverhill, NH 03744. New writers and artists always welcome!

**REMOTE CONTROL** #4. Multi-media zine is now open for submissions of fiction, filks, poetry and artwork. Publication date is May 1994. SASE for more information to Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Ct, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

**SERRATED SEVEN** #2. Now accepting submissions and deposits for this B7 genzine with a hurt/comfort slant. Issue #1 did not contain adult stories, but I would not be averse to expanding the format to include adult if the right stories come along. SASE for guidelines to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Deposits:

\$5.00+SASE. On-line address: Ashton7@aol.com.

**SNOWFIRE: Celebrating Princess Leia.** The fist zines of its kind in over a decade, *Snowfire* is totally dedicated to celebrating the feminine side of the Force. Join fellow SW fans from around the Galaxy in this loving tribute to everyone's favorite princess/senator/rebel leader/etc. Stories by Pia Rasmussen, Matt Kirby, Mary Jo Fox, John Fredericks, Yvette Ghilan, Amanda Palumbo, Matt Busch, Debbie Kittle, Maikel Das, Kymm August, Brian Harris, and others. Publication still set for May 1995. \$9.00 in person, \$11.50 by mail in U.S., \$12.00 in Canada, \$15.50 overseas. Make checks and money orders payable to Mary Jo Fox, P. O. Box 215, Vienna, VA 22181.

**SOUTHERN COMFORT** #8.5. Now accepting submissions and deposits on this B7 adult zine. Submissions of a straight or slash nature, any characters are acceptable. If interested in submitting, please send SASE for guidelines to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Deposits: \$5.00 + SASE. On-line address: Ashton7@aol.com.

**SOUTHERN SEVEN** #10. Now accepting submissions and deposits for the B7 genzine. I'm already holding a few great submissions! If interested in submitting, please send SASE for guidelines to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Deposits: \$5.00 + SASE. On-line address: Ashton7@aol.com.

**SOUTHERN KNIGHTS** #3. Now accepting submissions and deposits for the SW genzine. That's right! I'm reviving my very first zine. All characters and situations are welcome. If interested in submitting, please send SASE for guidelines to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Deposits: \$5.00 + SASE. On-line address: Ashton7@aol.com.

**STRAIGHT BLAKE'S** #2: B7 fandom's only hetero adult zine is now looking for contributions for its second issue. The only two guidelines are that stories must be straight and must include B7 characters. That's easy, isn't it? Tentative deadline for submissions is February 15, 1995 for a MediaWest (May '95) publication date. To submit or for further information, SASE Pat Nussman, 1612 Evergreen St., Sebring, FL 33870. If you're on the Internet, e-mail me at p.nussman@genie.geis.com.

**TATOOINE DREAMS.** New Luke zine planned for Spring 1994. Needs submissions. Keep it clean, please. For info, SASE Kymm August, 42 Heron St., Long Beach, NY 11561.

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**THE FARTHEST FRONTIER** #4 is now open for submissions of Classic Trek pieces. Issue #5 is now open for submissions of TNG and DS9 material. Action stories as well as relationship pieces are welcome but no slash will be accepted. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

**WE GOT ANOTHER ONE!** Now accepting submissions of fiction and artwork for second issue of *Real Ghostbusters* zine. Action-adventure as well as relationship pieces are suitable, but no slash will be accepted. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

**YEARS OF FIELDWORK**. Now taking reservations (\$5.00 plus SASE) for this collection of Indiana Jones fiction from the "O.S.S." series by Jeannie Webster and Sally Smith. Anticipated publication date is early winter 1994. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

### **OTHER WORLDS**

ART PRINTS -- Full color prints. Han and Leia (1990 Star Award/Best Cover Art) by Dianne Smith. Luke by Melanie Gutierrez. Vader by Nancy Stasulis, bareback Han by Dianne Smith. Suitable for framing. \$2.50 each. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

CLEARANCE SALE: Luke & Leia t-shirts. Black ink on cream, yellow or pale blue shirts. L, XL and XXL sizes. Please state first and second color preferences. Wolf t-shirt. White ink on black shirts. M-XXL. SE t-shirt. Only one left: Large, navy with design printed in white. First come, first serve. \$5.00 (\$6.00 XXL sizes). Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

CORELLIAN ARCHIVES needs donations of out of print zines -- all fandoms. For info, SASE Ming Wathne, Corellian Archives, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

LOOKING for Hamill with wife and kids on Howard Stern tape and Hamill on QVC. Also in search of Ackbar and Red Guard Bend-Ems to play with others in my demented kitchen. Please contact Amanda Palumbo, PO Box 397, Lake Peekskill, NY 10537. Thanks!

ZINE SALE! Cleaned out my closet and I now have a large number of used zines for sale. SW, ST, B7, media, some dating back to the 70's. Titles include *Wookiee Commode*, *Flip of a Coin*, *Facets*, *Against the Sith*, *Twin Suns*, *Warped Space*, *Skywalker*, *Southern Seven*, *Sol Plus*, and more too numerous to name here. Some fairly recent titles, too. Most zines in excellent to mint condition. SASE for list of available zines to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.



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### **SOUTHERN ENCLAVE**

**Cheree Cargill  
457 Meadowhill Drive  
Garland, TX 75043**

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